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Seventh CPV Congress

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Vietnam

Seventh CPV Congress

FBIS-EAS-91-123-S CONTENTS *26 June 1991*

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

CONGRESS PREVIEWED

Fifth, Sixth Party Congresses Reviewed *[Hanoi Radio]* 1
Article Urges Youths To Carry On Party Cause *[Hanoi Radio]* 1
VNA Cites Editorials on Congress 1
NHAN DAN Editorial Welcomes Congress *[Hanoi International]* 2
NHAN DAN Editorial Welcomes Congress *[Hanoi Radio]* 2
Le Duc Anh Welcomes Cambodian Delegation *[SPK]* 4
Kayson Phomvihan Leads Lao Delegation *[Hanoi Radio]* 4
Soviet Delegation Arrives for Congress *[Hanoi International]* 4
Lao, Soviet Delegations' Activities Reported *[VNA]* 4
Cuban Communist Party Delegation Arrives *[Hanoi Radio]* 4
Television Network Prepares for Congress *[Hanoi TV]* 4
Party Congress Press Center Inaugurated *[Hanoi Radio]* 5
News Briefing for Foreign Correspondents Held *[Hanoi Radio]* 5
Further on Procedural Changes *[AFP]* 7
Leaders Receive Foreign Party Delegations *[Hanoi Radio]* 7

CONGRESS OPENS 24 JUN

Scene at Party Congress Opening Described *[AFP]* 9
Further on Opening Session *[Hanoi Radio]* 9
Vo Chi Cong Gives Opening Speech at Congress *[Hanoi TV]* 13
Nguyen Van Linh Reads Political Report *[Hanoi TV]* 15
Do Muoi Chairs Afternoon Session *[Hanoi Radio]* 28
International Delegations Greet Congress *[VNA]* 28

Fifth, Sixth Party Congresses Reviewed

BK2306043091 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 22 Jun 91

[Text] The Fifth Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Congress was held from 27-31 March 1982 in Hanoi. Attending the congress were 1,033 delegates representing more than 1.7 million party members throughout the country; many of them actively participated in all activities of the party at the grass-roots and district levels. Also attending this congress were more than 40 delegations from fraternal parties of countries around the world. The congress set forth key orientations, tasks, and socioeconomic targets for the 1981-1985 period, and the two strategic tasks of building socialism and defending the Vietnamese socialist fatherland. The congress elected a new party Central Committee comprising 116 official and 36 alternate members. The party Central Committee elected the Political Bureau comprising 13 official and 2 alternate members. It also elected a 10-member party Central Committee Secretariat. Comrade Le Duan was reelected general secretary of the party.

The Sixth CPV Congress was convened in Hanoi from 15-18 December 1986 with the participation of 1,129 delegates representing almost 1.9 million party members. Among them, 925 delegates were from party organizations of 40 provinces, municipalities, and special zones and 172 from party organizations at the central level; 153 of them were women, 115 were ethnic minority people, 50 were armed forces and labor heroes, and 72 were workers. Also attending the congress were 32 delegations from foreign countries.

The congress asserted the determination to renovate the party leadership in accordance with the scientific and revolutionary spirit.

Article Urges Youths To Carry On Party Cause

BK2206084191 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1400 GMT 21 Jun 91

[Article by Vu Dinh Vinh: "Our Party in the Eyes of the Young Generations"]

[Summary] Dear young friends, I would like to talk with you on the occasion of the upcoming seventh party congress about the young delegates to the congress. Some 60 years ago, 13 young delegates to the first party congress in Macau followed Comrade Nguyen Ai Quoc's path to establish the vanguard party for the working class and nation, and to stage the historic August Revolution. Then, young delegates again brought freshness to the subsequent party congresses, contributing to the success of all party congresses.

"In this party congress, the following figures somewhat reflect the harmonious continuity between predecessors and successors whose ages are different but whose objectives and ideals are the same. Of the 1,176 delegates to the seventh party congress, 443 persons fall into the late 20s-50 age group, and 503 persons are of the 51-60 age group. So more than 80 percent of the delegates are in the most active age group." It should be added that "102 delegates joined the party since May 1975, 715 delegates—60.8 percent of the total—will attend the national party congress for the first time."

It is clear that our party has always paid attention to forming and forging the succeeding generations and has constantly trusted younger generations, just as Uncle Ho instructed in his testament. "Facts also show that since the founding of the party, young people have always taken the lead in all tasks and remained the reliable reserve force of the party."

On the 30th anniversary of the party, Uncle Ho said: Our party is truly great. Looking back over the past 60 years, we can see that our Uncle's statement has proved to be true: "The greatness primarily lies in the correct lines and our persistence in following the socialist path that we have chosen all along." Despite countless ups and downs in various countries, Vietnam remains stable politically and its economy is changing for the better. This owes "mainly to the leadership of the party, a genuine Marxist-Leninist party, founded, trained, and forged by Uncle Ho. We, young men, can not help but be proud of their party and of their contributions to the glorious cause."

It is impossible to list all the heroic sagas of our youth. Nevertheless, as we can see clearly that our party and people have recorded all the great contributions of young combatants to national defense and construction. Generations after generations of young people have placed all their trust in the party leadership and have not hesitated to endure sacrifices.

"It can be said that for countless years our young generations have always looked at our party with trust and love and have constantly struggled to follow the party."

I realize that some of our youths have somewhat different views and thoughts. "Some comrades have hastily observed and looked at the party in a narrow-minded fashion. In fact, some comrades have abused their party membership to act illegally and negatively. However, they definitively do not represent the party." They are merely rotten people whom our party resolves to eliminate in order to purify its ranks and remain worthy of the confidence and love of all the people, including our youths.

VNA Cites Editorials on Congress

BK2406064991 Hanoi VNA in English 0604 GMT 24 Jun 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA June 14—In its editorial welcoming the opening of the Seventh Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam at the Ba Dinh Conference Hall today, NHAN DAN dynamic step of development of the Vietnamese revolution, of renovation and national construction." [sentence as received] The paper says:

"Renovation is the road taking our people to socialism. The process of renovation which was started at the sixth congress has achieved initial but important achievements. Those achievements have demonstrated that our line of renovation is correct and the steps taken are suitable. With the seventh congress, renovation will be further promoted in all spheres, in both the economic and political fields. No force can divert or pull back the advance of our renovation. We shall continue renewing so that in the next five years we may overcome difficulties and trials.

"Stabilize and develop the economy and society, strengthen political stability, push back the negative aspects and social injustice, take our country out of the present crisis. We shall continue renewing so that by the end of this century our country may get rid of poverty and underdevelopment, improve the people's living conditions, consolidate national defence and security, thus creating conditions for the rapid development in early the next century. To bring the G.N.P. by the year 2000 to double the 1990 level is our goal."

The paper goes on:

"The party leadership is the determinant factor of the success of renovation as well as the whole cause of socialist construction and national defence. The Communist Party of Vietnam is the vanguard of the Vietnamese working class, the loyal representative of the interests of the working class, all the labouring people and the whole Vietnamese nation. The party regards Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh's thought as its ideologial foundation and the lodestar for its actions and democratic centralism as the fundamental principle of its organization. In order to successfully lead the renovation cause, our party has to renovate and reorganise itself, to raise the level of its perception and capacity and acquire a new fighting strength to effectively overcome negativism and other weaknesses and to restore and enhance the party's prestige among the people. The party must be strong politically, ideologically and organizationally."

For its part, the army paper QUAN DOI NHAN DAN says:

"The Vietnamese revolution is facing new trials on the economic and social fields and comes under the direct impact of complicated developments in the world.

"But, in all circumstances, we must ensure political stability and defend the revolutionary gains, overcome the immediate trials and the socio-economic crisis, stabilise life, and push back negative aspects in social life. We must heighten the spirit of independence, sovereignty and self-reliance, build the country with industry and thrift, broaden our external cooperative relations in order to overcome trials and advance forward. We must heighten our vigilance against all schemes and acts of peaceful evolution of the imperialist and reactionary forces, firmly maintain political security and defend the homeland."

QUAN DOI NHAN DAN goes on:

"The history of our party's leadership of the revolutionary struggle has convincingly shown that at the turning points of history, when the revolution is in the most difficult stages, our party always demonstrates its very-keen political acumen. Relying on the people and its internal unity our party always puts forth optimum solutions to steer the revolutionary boat across the most perilous reefs and continue its advance along the charted road. At this juncture when the revolution is meeting tremendous difficulties and complexities, this quality has once again come out front. We have the necessary scientific grounds to believe in the success of the seventh congress of the party."

NHAN DAN Editorial Welcomes Congress

BK2306132291 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 23 Jun 91

[Text] In an editorial, NHAN DAN Sunday [23 June] says that this is the congress of wisdom, renovation, democracy, discipline, and unity. Its result is decisive to the development of the country in the immediate and long-term future. The paper continues:

The Vietnamese people strongly believe that the congress will be a success, that the renovation process initiated by the sixth party congress will continue to be carried out in all aspects, and that the country will overcome all difficulties and be stable to steadily advance forward.

NHAN DAN Editorial Welcomes Congress

BK2506113191 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 24 Jun 91

[24 June NHAN DAN Editorial: "A Congress of Intelligence, Renovation, Democracy, Discipline, and Unity"]

[Text] Today, our entire party, people, and army are jointly looking to Ba Dinh Hall in Hanoi to warmly welcome the Seventh National Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV].

The seventh party congress is the most important event of our country's political life this year. The congress has been attracting the special attention of all the Vietnamese people, fraternal people, and the world public.

More than four years ago, the sixth national party congress started the complete renovation direction, beginning a turning point in the cause of socialist construction in Vietnam.

In the past years, the whole party and people have been determinedly striving to put the lines of the sixth party congress into life. The seventh party congress has the duty of reviewing the implementation of the sixth party congress' resolutions; evaluating what has been done and what can be done but has not been done yet; raising new

issues, and pointing out the strong and weak points, causes, and experiences in the renovation process in the main fields of social life.

On that basis, the congress will outline direction, targets, and main duties for the next five years.

The seventh congress also has another great meaning. The congress will, for the first time, pass a political platform choosing direction of national construction in the transitional period advancing to socialism and it will approve the Strategy for Socioeconomic Stabilization and Development Until the Year 2000.

These issues relate to the duty of perfecting the role of political leadership of the party over the society and further enhancing the scientific base of the party's major decisions.

The seventh congress will review the party leadership, plan directions and duties in party construction, revise the party regulations, and elect the new party Central Committee members to implement the stable transfer of leading generations. Therefore, the special importance of the seventh party congress lies in the position that the congress will decide not only on the current difficult duties but also the broad future of our revolution and our party in the coming decades.

The seventh congress opens today but its preparation, in reality, began many years ago since the Central Committee ordered the compilation of the platform and other documents of the congress.

The motivation to contribute opinions to the congress documents which started since the beginning of this year in the party and the public has become a wide, abundant, and profound political activity for the public in our country in the past years.

Millions of people have taken part and dozens of thousands of opinions have been carefully received, selected to choose the most reasonable ideas to complement and perfect the contents of the draft documents. It can be said that the documents which will be examined and passed by this congress are the quintessence of the party and people's intelligence and the result of a democratic, open-minded, working process.

The first issue with strategic importance is the unity in confirming the socialist target and the confirmation of the entire party and people in pursuing till the end the road leading to that target. For our country, there is no other road to achieve real national independence, freedom, and happiness for the people. This is the choice of history itself, the choice was definitely made since 1930 with the birth of our party, and the only correct choice in today's epoch, especially when the international and national situation are having complicated changes.

We confirm that renovation is the road taking our people to socialism. The renovation undertaking starting from the sixth party congress, so far, has scored very important initial achievements. Those achievements show that our renovation direction is correct and the steps of the renovation undertaking are basically suitable.

With the seventh party congress, the renovation undertaking will be completely accelerated economically and politically. No force can misdirect or pull back our advancing steps in renovation. We will pursue renovation, so in the next five years we can overcome difficulties, challenges to stabilize and develop the socioeconomy, enhance political stability, push back negativism and social injustice, and basically take our country out of the present crisis.

We will pursue renovation, so by the end of this century, our country will no longer be classified as a poor and underdeveloped country, living standards will be improved, national defense and security will be stronger, and conditions created for quicker development in the beginning of the 21st century. The gross national product in the year 2000 will be double that of 1990.

We confirm that the party leadership is a factor deciding the victory of the renovation undertaking as well as the entire undertaking of socialist construction and the fatherland protection.

The CPV is a vanguard force of the Vietnam worker class, truly representing the benefits of the worker class, the laboring people, and the whole nation.

The party chooses Marxist-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh ideology as the foundation of its ideology and the guide for its activities and it chooses democratic centralism as a basic organization principle.

In order to successfully lead the renovation undertaking, our party must renovate and correct itself so it can have the new knowledge, capacity, and fighting force to effectively overcome the negative phenomena and shortcomings, to restore and heighten the public reputation of the party.

The party should be constructed strongly in politics, ideology, and organization.

From different standpoints, there may be different points of view and evaluation of the seventh party congress. But for every Vietnamese, everyone of our dear countrymen and comrades, the seventh congress is a congress of intelligence, renovation, democracy, discipline, and unity.

Looking forward to the congress, our entire party, people, and army completely place our total trust in the success of the congress.

Following the sixth party congress, the seventh national party congress will surely open a new step of dynamic development of Vietnam's revolution and of the undertaking of renovation and national building.

Le Duc Anh Welcomes Cambodian Delegation

BK2406071691 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0506 GMT 24 Jun 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK June 24—A high-level delegation of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea led by its General Secretary Heng Samrin arrived in Vietnam Sunday to attend the Seventh Congress of the Vietnamese Communist Party, due to be held in Hanoi Capital Monday, reported an SPK correspondent from the Vietnamese capital.

The delegation includes Sar Kheng, Politburo member and president of the Organization Commission of the PRPK Central Committee, Say Phuthang, Politburo member and president of the Control Commission of the party Central Committee, and Uch Borit, Cambodian ambassador to Vietnam.

It was welcomed on its arrival at Noibai Airport by Le Duc Anh, Politburo members of the Vietnamese Communist Party Central Committee, and minister of defence of Vietnam.

Kayson Phomvihan Leads Lao Delegation

BK2206062291 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 22 Jun 91

[Text] At the invitation of the Communist Party of Vietnam, [CPV] a delegation of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party led by Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan, chairman of the party, arrived in Hanoi on the morning of 22 June to attend the Seventh CPV Congress.

Welcoming the delegation at the party Central Committee's guest house were General Doan Khue, member of the Political Bureau, and many high-ranking leaders of our party and state.

Soviet Delegation Arrives for Congress

BK2206102091 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 22 Jun 91

[Text] On Saturday [22 June], a delegation of CPSU led by Shenin, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the party Central Committee, arrived in Hanoi for the forthcoming Seventh Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV].

The delegation was welcomed at the airport by Dao Duy Tung, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the CPV Central Committee, and many other senior party and state leaders.

Lao, Soviet Delegations' Activities Reported

BK2306145391 Hanoi VNA in English 1419 GMT 23 Jun 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA June 23—The Lao and Soviet party delegations to the seventh congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam scheduled to open tomorrow paid floral tributes to President Ho Chi Minh at his mausoleum here this morning.

The Lao delegation, headed by Kaysone Phomvihane, chairman of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party, also visited the Ho Chi Minh Museum.

Also today, the Soviet delegation led by O.S. Shenin, Politburo member and secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, made a tour of the Hoa Binh Hydroelectric Power Plant built in Ha Son Binh Province with Soviet assistance.

Cuban Communist Party Delegation Arrives

BK2406163091 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 24 Jun 91

[Text] Accepting the invitation of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee, the delegation of the Communist Party of Cuba led by Comrade Yolanda Ferrer, alternate member of the Communist Party of Cuba [CPC] Politburo, went to Vietnam to attend the Seventh National CPV Congress. The delegation arrived in Hanoi today, 24 June.

The delegation consists of Tania Manzanares, member of the CPC Foreign Department, (Luis Copana) member of the CPC Foreign Department, and Armando Saucedo Yero, Cuban ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Vietnam.

Greeting the CPC delegation were Comrade Dao Duy Tung, member of the CPV Central Committee Political Bureau, Trinh Ngoc Thai, deputy head of the CPV Foreign Department, and some high-ranking cadres of our party foreign department.

Television Network Prepares for Congress

BK2106115791 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Text] The opening of the seventh national party congress will take place in the capital city of Hanoi only a few days from now. Like other news services throughout the country, the Vietnam Television Network is making intensive preparations for covering this great national event.

In the past, Vietnam Television programs were videotaped and sent to local stations for rebroadcast. As a result, people in faraway places not covered by the Giang Vo and Tam Dao Television Networks had to wait for one day before they could view those programs.

To enable our people in the entire country to have direct access to Vietnam Television programs at the same time and in a timely manner, especially now that the seventh national party congress, an important national event, is about to take place, in compliance with a decision of the Council of Ministers and with the collaboration and

assistance of the Post and Telegraph General Corporation, since February 1991, part of Vietnam Television programs have been test broadcast via satellite to local stations throughout the country for recording and rebroadcasting purposes.

Effective 15 June, Vietnam Television programs have been broadcast to local stations via a Soviet-made Statsionar-14 satellite without interruption from 1700-2230 [1000-1530 GMT].

For those countries adjacent to Vietnam and under the coverage of the Statsionar-14 satellite, people can view Vietnam Television programs provided they make appropriate antenna adjustments.

To guarantee technical conditions for television broadcasts, the Vietnam Television Network has built and installed an air- conditioning system for the Television Broadcast Center. The system was designed by (ENICO), the acronym of the Refrigeration and Electrical Engineering Enterprise, which is a joint venture among three units, namely the National Technology Research Institute, the Federation of Machine Assembly Enterprises under the Ministry of Building, and the Institute of Mechanics under the Vietnam Academy of Sciences.

The project has to meet high technical requirements in terms of temperature, industrial sanitation stability, and micro-meteorologic conditions to ensure the smooth operation of electronic equipment and filming stations.

The air-conditioning system has been test run since February 1991 to enable further technical adjustments and to provide timely support to the production of television programs relating to the seventh party congress.

Aside from its daily programs, the Vietnam Television Network has been entrusted with the task of providing live coverage of the opening and closing of the seventh party congress from the Ba Dinh Conference Hall. The network is also responsible for videotaping the activities at the conference hall during the four days the congress meets and for relaying non-stop information to the press center to keep local and foreign journalists informed.

At present, at the site of the congress, personnel of the technical center have completed installing a filming system mounted on a mobile television broadcast van, a microwave broadcast system for live coverage, and a wiring system connecting all the television sets in the press center.

By means of satellite transmission and through the use of all available national television stations, cadres and personnel of the Vietnam Television Network are doing all they can to keep our people in the entire country and even overseas Vietnamese fully informed of the activities of the seventh party congress.

Party Congress Press Center Inaugurated

BK2306073491 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 23 Jun 91

[Text] The Seventh Congress Press Center was inaugurated this morning, 23 June.

Speaking at the first news briefing at the Seventh Congress Press Center, Comrade Thai Ninh, vice chairman of the Ideological and Cultural Department of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee and director of the press center, introduced to journalists and representatives of the mass media at the central and local levels the regulations governing the activities of the press at the seventh party congress, the work schedule of the congress, and the duties of the press center.

The objective of the press center is to secure prompt and accurate information about the activities of the congress, thus creating favorable conditions for the press to perform its professional duty.

Every day the center will keep the press informed of the work schedule and other activities of the congress, provide journalists with documents of the congress, and organize news conferences.

News Briefing for Foreign Correspondents Held

BK2306165091 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 23 Jun 91

[Text] The Seventh Congress press center organized a news briefing at the Ho Chi Minh Museum this afternoon for the international press corps.

Attending were more than 100 foreign journalists, including Hanoi-based foreign journalists and representatives of many foreign press agencies who have just arrived in our country to cover the Seventh Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV].

Empowered by the party Central Committee Secretariat, Comrade Tran Trong Tan, member of the party Central Committee, informed foreign journalists of some basic traits and the work schedules of the Seventh Congress of delegates of the CPV, which will be opened tomorrow, 24 June, and will work for four days.

Comrade Tran Trong Tan disclosed that the Seventh Congress is vested with heavy duties, not only summing up the implementation of the Sixth Congress resolution and, on that basis, setting forth tasks for the next five years, but also passing the platform and defining basic orientations and steps for the period of transition to socialism in Vietnam; passing the strategy for socioeconomic stabilization and development up to the year 2000, the report on party building and amendments to the party statutes, and the draft amended party statutes.

The Seventh Party Congress will also elect the party's highest organ of leadership.

These important tasks of the Seventh Party Congress are of great decisive significance to the development of the country in the immediate and long-term future.

Next, Comrade Tran Trong Tan furnished the international press corps with some data concerning the professions, standards of knowledge, ages, and years of party membership of 1,176 delegates to the Seventh Party Congress. He said that a number of guests in the country and four delegations of fraternal parties from the Soviet Union, Laos, Cambodia, and Cuba will also attend the congress. Comrade Tran Trong Tan continued:

[Begin Tran Trong Tan recording] To advance to this Seventh Party Congress, all draft documents of the congress have been made public to solicit views from party members, the people of all strata in the country, and overseas Vietnamese. Many views contributed to these draft documents have been submitted to the party Central Committee.

The draft documents have been reviewed before being submitted to the 12th plenum of the party Central Committee. On that basis, the party Central Committee concentrated on discussing issues with conflicting views. After discussion, [words indistinct] voted for each issue to make a final review of these draft documents before submitting them to the congress.

Since the 12th plenum of the party Central Committee, delegates have been furnished with the new draft documents to make a study and prepare their views for discussion and voting at the congress.

On the basis of the amended statutes, the congress will elect the party Central Committee's organ of leadership. In the process of preparing personnel, the party Central Committee has received more than 10,000 letters from cadres and party members suggesting that the congress pay attention to criteria and quality, and that members of the party Central Committee this time be equipped with good political and ethical quality, as well as with knowledge and ability to take on the various tasks.

The salient point in the task of preparing for the Seventh Party Congress is the instillment of democracy in the contribution of views to various documents [words indistinct] the party Central Committee, all cadres and party members [words indistinct] to express their views frankly, honestly, and clearly [words indistinct].

The Seventh Party Congress is one of intellect aimed at further accelerating the process of renovation, and will held in a democratic manner. Through this congress, the entire party and people will strengthen their unity and will resolutely strive to apply the resolution of congress to life. [end recording]

Comrade Tran Trong Tan introduced to foreign journalists the four-day work program of the Seventh National Congress of delegates of the CPV, from 24 to 27 June.

At the news briefing, correspondents from many foreign news and press agencies and radio and television stations—such as FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW, XINHUA, UPI, REUTERS, Soviet television, ASAHI SHIMBUN, NHK, the U.S. magazine TIME, and THE WASHINGTON POST—raised a number of questions about the Seventh Congress of the CPV.

Answering a question raised by a Soviet television correspondent concerning the number of party members of the CPV, Comrade Tran Trong Tan disclosed that from 1.8-1.9 million people joined the CPV before the Sixth Party Congress and the number of CPV party members now reaches more than two million.

In response to a question raised by a UPI correspondent as to why the Seventh Congress did not invite China, Comrade Tran Trong Tan said:

[Begin recording] So far, our party has tried by all means to improve its ties with China and to normalize the relations between the two parties and states. Regrettably, the relations between the two parties have not yet been normalized. Therefore, the congress this time has not succeeded in inviting the delegation of the fraternal Chinese Communist Party. [end recording]

Answering questions raised by some foreign journalists concerning the new traits of the Seventh Congress, Comrade Tran Trong Tan said:

[Beging recording] Regarding party organization, there are many changes in the amendments to the party statutes this time. For instance, as far the party Central Committee is concerned, in the past, the party Central Committee used to elect its general secretary through a direct vote. This time, the party Central Committee will elect the Political Bureau first. Those comrades who have been elected to the Political Bureau will meet and appoint the general secretary. Once the Political Bureau has appointed the comrade general secretary and has presented him to the party Central Committee, members of the party Central Committee may stand for the election to the post of general secretary or may recommend additional candidates to this election. Next, members of the party Central Committee will hold a secret vote. There are a few more changes. First, there will be no alternate members of the party Central Committee this time. Second, a conference of delegates might be convened between two congresses. The difference between the conference of delegates and the congress of delegates lies in the fact that the conference of delegates will comprise members of the party Central Committee and delegates elected by lower-level executive committees directly subordinate to the party Central Committee. Third, regarding the Secretariat, the party Central Committee will only elect additional members of the Secretariat those individuals who not belong to the Political Bureau. As for those who join the Secretariat, since they are members of the Political Bureau, their work assignment will be decided by the Political Bureau. As for the party Central Committee's Organ of Control,

it will be elected by the party Central Committee. I want to keep everyone informed of these changes because according to the draft amendments to the party statutes to be submitted to the congress, if the congress unanimously agrees on these changes, everything will be done in that direction. [end recording]

Finally, Comrade Tran Trong Tan said:

[Begin recording] Once again, I would like to sincerely thank all of you for coming here to report on the activities of our party congress. It is my hope that all of you will contribute to helping people all over the world gain more knowledge of our party and people. I wish all of you good health and a pleasant stay in our country. [end recording]

Further on Procedural Changes

BK2306144291 Hong Kong AFP in English 1429 GMT 23 Jun 91

[Text] Hanoi, June 23 (AFP)—The Vietnamese Communist Party will use new election procedures this week to pick its next secretary general and to determine the composition and size of its central committee, a senior official said Sunday.

Central Committee member Tran Trong Tan said the party's Seventh National Congress opening Monday would introduce many important procedural changes, starting with the election of a replacement for retiring Secretary General Nguyen Van Linh.

At the party's Sixth Congress, Central Committee members picked the communist chief but under the amended constitution the Central Committee will only have power to elect Politburo members.

The Politburo will then elect a secretary general from its own ranks.

Under another innovation, the Central Committee will have no candidate members, who previously have been elected to provide cover for natural wastage due to death, disgrace or simple retirement.

New rules relating to election of the Secretariat and Party Inspection Committee would also be introduced at the four-day congress, Mr. Tan said, adding that the Congress might become a permanent institution or have a national conference mid-term.

Mr. Tan told a press conference that 1,176 delegates would attend the Congress, which President Vo Chi Cong is scheduled to open Monday morning. Mr. Linh is then to deliver the general report on Congress documents.

Elections will take place Wednesday and the results announced Thursday, when the amended constitution and resolutions are expected to be adopted before the new party chief closes the Congress.

Sources said more than half of the 12-member Politburo were expected to stand down and the Central Committee to be trimmed. They added that these changes were decided at a "pre-Congress" here last week.

Mr. Tan said the party was looking for young members in the Central Committee whose size would be determined by vote.

The Sixth Congress closed with 173 Central Committee members—based on the size of the party nationwide—but this week delegates will cast their votes on the number they think best.

Mr. Tan said the votes would "be processed by computer so that a calculation can be made for the number desired by more than 50 per cent of the delegates and that will be the number of the new Central Committee."

Once the size had been agreed, nominations to the new Central Committee would be accepted and a final list drawn up by the Congress presidium and put to delegates, whose votes would be collected by a committee.

Mr. Tan said the Central Committee would decide on the size of an advisory body, set up at the last congress with three veteran leaders of whom only Pham Van Dong is still alive.

He added that the body was not recognised in the Constitution. Observers said some of the outgoing and ageing Politburo members might end up in this council.

Communist delegations from Laos, Cambodia, the Soviet Union and Cuba will attend the meeting but the Chinese will be absent because Hanoi and Beijing do not have party-to-party ties.

"It is regrettable that party-to-party relations have not been normalised, so that we cannot invite a Chinese delegation to our party congress this time," Mr. Tan said of the country Vietnam fell out with over Hanoi's 1978 invasion of Cambodia.

Leaders Receive Foreign Party Delegations

BK2506053591 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 24 Jun 91

[Text] On the morning of 24 June, in Ba Dinh Hall before the national party congress, Comrades Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the party Central Committee; Pham Van Dong, adviser to the party Central Committee; Vo Chi Cong, member of the party Political Bureau; and Do Muoi, member of the party Political Bureau received the CPSU delegation led by Comrade Shenin, the delegation of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] led by Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan, and the delegation of the People's Revolutionary Party of

Kampuchea [KPRP] led by Comrade Heng Samrin. The delegations are attending the Seventh National Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV]. Comrade Nguyen Quang Tao, deputy director of the CPV Foreign Relations Department, also attended the reception.

On behalf of the Vietnamese Communists and people, Comrade Nguyen Van Linh warmly welcomed the delegates of the fraternal parties attending this CPV congress.

The general secretary stressed that the presence of the delegations of the CPSU, LPRP, and KPRP will contribute to the success of the CPV National Party Congress.

The delegations conveyed the sincere appreciation of the Central Committees of the CPSU, LPRP, and KPRP to the CPV Central Committee for inviting the delegations to the congress, a most important political event of the Vietnamese Communists and people. They wished the CPV congress success.

Scene at Party Congress Opening Described

BK2406092891 Hong Kong AFP in English 0921 GMT 24 Jun 91

[Text] Hanoi, June 24 (AFP)—The Vietnamese capital was decked in bunting and flags as hundreds of delegates, from bemedalled soldiers to colourful hill tribes, attended the opening Monday of the Communist Party's Seventh Congress.

Diplomats, journalists and "fraternal party delegations" from Laos, Cambodia, Cuba and the Soviet Union also packed into the spacious Ba Dinh Conference Hall as ageing President Vo Chi Cong opened the four-day forum.

Many congress delegates and observers earlier paid their respects to the embalmed body of Ho Chi Minh, who founded the Indochina Communist Party on a Hong Kong football pitch 61 years ago, in its mausoleum opposite the conference hall.

Delegates welcomed Pham Van Dong, former long-serving premier and the only surviving leader of Vietnam's independence struggle, as the octogenarian with his shock of white hair and blue Mao suit was led to a front row seat facing a massive bust of Ho Chi Minh, his late comrade and leader.

Mr. Cong and a handful of other elderly communist leaders, including Secretary General Nguyen Van Linh and military hero General Vo Nguyen Giap, are expected to step down at the congress and, perhaps, join Mr. Dong as special advisors to the leadership.

The first congress since the watershed sixth congress in December 1986, which heralded the launch of economic reforms, is expected to rejuvenate the leadership and advance the 1986 initiatives, rather than announce another major shift in policy.

Prime Minister Do Muoi, tipped to succeed Mr. Linh, looked relaxed and grinned happily next to Cambodian President Heng Samrin, as the 76-year-old secretary general delivered his general report.

In contrast, slick, long-serving Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach—one of seven people expected to leave the Politburo—looked grim and pensive throughout.

China's ambassador to Vietnam and other senior diplomats were present, although the world's largest communist party did not send a delegation, because of icy relations since Hanoi invaded Cambodia in 1978 and installed Mr. Heng Samrin's government.

Envoys from countries ranging from Albania through Afghanistan to Australia enjoyed simultaneous translation in English, while more than 100 foreign journalists followed the proceedings on television in the press centre.

Veterans of the last congress noted delegates were better dressed this time, discarding Mao suits in favour of suits and ties for men and elegant traditional silk dresses for women.

A total of 124 ethnic minority representatives attended, in the colourful costumes they habitually wear in northern and central Vietnam's remote hill regions.

The 94 Armed Forces delegates--27 of whom are labour and Armed Forces heroes—wore uniforms adorned with gold braiding and medals.

All the delegates seemed to savour the historic occasion and keen to capture it in group photos against the backdrop of the tomb of "Uncle Ho" or on the steps of Ba Dinh Hall.

Others, including Gen. Giap and a group of giggling, traditionally dressed girls, posed inside the building before Ho Chi Minh's plaster of paris bust, portraits of Marx and Lenin and the ubiquitous yellow hammer and sickle and yellow star.

In the past few days the municipal authorities have spruced up the town with bunting, flags and posters. Buildings such as the central bank are swathed in colourful fabric, with the hammer and sickle ever prominent.

Loudspeakers all over the city broadcast live the congress speeches, but few in the streets of Hanoi seemed to listen as Mr. Linh performed what was likely to be his swansong.

Further on Opening Session

BK2506000191 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 24 Jun 91

[Report on the opening of the Seventh National Congress of delegates of the Communist Party of Vietnam at the Ba Dinh Conference Hall in Hanoi on 24 June—portions recorded]

[Text] Dear friends: The Seventh National Congress of delegates of the Communist Party of Vietnam opened at the Ba Dinh Conference Hall in Hanoi this morning, 24 June.

The seventh party congress is one of wisdom, renovation, democracy, discipline, and unity. This congress is of great significance to the process of renovation in our country, as well as to development of the country in the 1991-95 three-year period and ensuing years.

Prior to the opening of the congress, the delegates visited the mausoleum of President Ho Chi Minh, the unboundedly respected and beloved leader of the Vietnamese people, who founded, led, and trained our party throughout the long revolutionary stage of the nation.

Attending the congress are 1,176 delegates representing more than 2 million party members engaged in different domains of activity from all parts of the country or

working in foreign countries. Apart from the number of official delegates, the congress has invited a number of guests in the country and four delegations of fraternal parties. These include the CPSU delegation led by Comrade Shenin, Politburo member and secretary of the party Central Committee; the delegation of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party led by Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan, chairman of the party Central Committee; the delegation of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party led by Comrade Heng Samrin, general secretary of the party Central Committee; and the delegation of the Cuban Communist Party led by Comrade Yolanda Ferrer, alternate member of the party Central Committee Politburo.

The presence of the delegations of fraternal parties has brought to us the close friendship and valuable support for the revolutionary cause of our party and people.

The Ba Dinh Conference hall, the place where many importa.at events of the country were usually held, this morning was filled with an atmosphere of a festival by the Vietnamese Communists. Fresh flowers and slogans created a radiant atmosphere for the conference hall. Seen in the middle of the rostrum were party banners, national flags, and a portrait of President Ho Chi Minh.

After visiting Uncle Ho's mausoleum, the delegates gathered in full at the conference hall. Here, we met the faces symbolizing party members of various generations from all parts of the country. These included workers, peasants, manual workers, students, military men, public security members, poor people, scientists, and intellectuals. Despite the difference in professions, ages, years of party membership, and standards of knowledge, they all came to the congress with the determination and confidence of the Vietnamese Communists in the success of the congress. Also seen at this congress were the comrade veteran revolutionaries—those who have long devoted themselves to the revolutionary cause of our party and people.

Also present at the opening ceremony this morning were the Hanoi- based representative of the Japanese Communist Party; members of the diplomatic corps; representatives of national, international, and nongovernmental organizations in Hanoi; and many domestic and foreign news agencies, and radio and television correspondents.

The congress began at 0900. The congress presidium included Comrade Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the CPV Central Committee; Comrade Vo Chi Cong, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau; Comrade Do Muoi, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau; Comrade Vo Van Kiet, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau; Comrade Le Duc Anh, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau; Comrade Nguyen Duc Tam, Political Bureau member and secretary of the party Central Committee; Comrade Nguyen Co Thach, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau; Comrade Dong Sy Nguyen, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau; Comrade Nguyen Thanh Binh, Political Bureau member and secretary of the party Central Committee; Comrade Doan Khue, member of the party Central Committee; Comrade Dao Duy Tung, Political Bureau member and secretary of the party Central Committee; Comrade Mai Chi Tho, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau; Comrade Dam Quang Trung, secretary of the party Central Committee; Comrade Nguyen Quyet, secretary of the party Central Committee; Comrade Vu Oanh, secretary of the party Central Committee; Comrade Le Phuoc Tho, secretary of the party Central Committee; Comrade Nguyen Thi Dinh, member of the Party Central Committee; Comrade Pham The Duyet, secretary of the party Central Committee and Hanoi Party Committee; Comrade Vo Tran Chi, member of the party Central Committee and secretary of the Ho Chi Minh City party committee; Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan, chairman of the LPRP Central Committee; Comrade Heng Samrin, general secretary of the KPRP Central Committee; Comrade Shenin, Politburo member and secretary of the CPSU; Comrade Yolanda Ferrer, alternate member of the Cuban Communist Party Politburo; Comrade Phoun Sipaseut, member of the LPRP Central Committee Political Bureau; Comrade Thongsing Thammavong, member of the LPRP Central Committee Political Bureau; Comrade Say Phuthang, political bureau member and secretary of the KPRP Central Committee; Comrade (Sour Kheng), Political Bureau member and secretary of the KPRP Central Committee; Comrade (Sherpa Tensku) deputy head of the CPSU Central Committee International Department; and Comrade Tania Manzanares, member of the Leadership of the Cuban Communist Party Central Committee Foreign Relations Department.

[recording of the national anthem and the Internationale] Amid the enthusiastic atmosphere of the congress, Comrade Vo Chi Cong, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of State, read the opening speech.

[Begin Vo Chi Cong recording] Members of the congress presidium, distinguished guests, comrade delegates to the congress: Today, the Seventh National Congress of Delegates of the Communist Party of Vietnam opens at the historic Ba Dinh Conference Hall. Each national party congress has its own significance because its affects the development of the revolution in our country and our party. More than four years ago, in this same Ba Dinh Conference Hall, the Sixth National CPV Congress set forth an all-round renovation line, creating a turning point in the cause of socialist construction in Vietnam. Over the past several years, our entire party and people have persistently and untiringly struggled to apply the line of the Sixth CPV Congress to life. The duty of this party congress is to generally review the implementation of the Sixth Party Congress resolution, evaluate achievements and what has not been achieved, newly emerging problems, and to point out good points, shortcomings,

causes, and experiences in carrying out renovation in all vital domains of social life. On this basis, the congress will set forth the guidelines, objectives, and main tasks for the coming five years.

The paramount significance of the seventh party congress lies in the fact that, for the first time, the congress will approve a platform, point out the viewpoints and basic orientations for the period of transition to socialism in our country, and pass the startegy of socioeconomic stabilization and development until the year 2000. These issues are related to the the task of perfecting the party's political leadership over society and will further strengthen the scientific base of the party's major decisions. Like other past congresses, the Seventh CPV Congress will review the performance of the party leadership, set forth the orientations and tasks for the party building work, make admendments to the party statutes, and elect the new party Central Committee.

It is necessary to stress that there is a new factor here: party-building work and the selection of high-level party personnel are taking place at a time when the revolutionary undertaking in our country is facing many challenges and many new opportunities, and at a time when there are major changes in the various generations of leadership. Thus, the special importance of the Seventh CPV Congress lies in the fact that it will decide not only the formidable tasks for the immediate future, but also the great future of the revolution in our country and our party in the decades to come.

We are convinced that the Seventh CPV Congress will fulfill its important responsibility and will be a congress of intellect, renovation, democracy, law, discipline, and unity, and will respond to the aspirations of the entire party and people.

In this spirit, I declare the Seventh CPV Congress open and wish it fine success. [applause] [end recording]

Following the opening speech by Comrade Vo Chi Cong, Comrade General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh took the floor to read the report of the Sixth CPV Central Committee on the documents presented to the Seventh CPV Congress. The report was entitled: "Continue to Take the Cause of Renovation Forward Along the Socialist Path." Comrade General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh said:

[Begin Nguyen Van Linh recording] Dear Presidium Members, Dear Distinguished International Guests: Our congress has to consider five major documents: The Platform for National Construction in the Period of Transition to Socialism [Cuwowng Linhx Xaay Duwngj Dqaats Nuwowcs Trong Thowif Kyf Quas Dqooj Leen Chur Nghiaxz Xax Hooij], the Strategy of Socioeconomic Stabilization and Development Until the Year of 2000, the Political Report, the Report on Party Building and Amendments to the Party Statutes, and the Amended Party Statutes.

The aforementioned draft documents are attached to the reports on the acceptance and handling of ideas contributed by party members and the people who have sent them to the delegates. Each delegation has studied them. I deem it unnecessary to represent each of those documents here. The party Central Committee would like to report before the congress some major issues that permeate the document. They are the issues on which all party members and people have contributed many views, though they differ at times. To prepare the party congress documents, in February 1987, the Political Bureau established a committee to compile the platform and the socioeconomic strategy. In March 1990, when it was deemed necessary to further raise the collectivity in preparing the various party congress documents, the party Central Committee's Eighth Plenum decided to establish five subcommittees of its own. Each subcommittee has gathered many views contributed by the party Central Committee members, leading and management cadres, delegates of all circles, mass organizations, the Fatherland Front, scientists, and experts, all of whom have much experience in all domains and regions of the country. They include in-service and retired cadres.

Each draft document was carefully discussed and modified several times before it was announced to solicit broad views from among all party members and the people.

At the 12th Plenum of the CPV Central Committee, on the basis of the final review of the suggestions made by the first-round party congresses at various levels, the party Central Committee discussed, accepted the suggestions, and revised the draft documents before fowarding them to the congress. The solicitation of suggestions from the entire party and people to the elaboration of the various documents of the congress really became a broad drive of democratic political activities, attracting more than 80 percent of party members throughout the country; hundreds of comrade veteran revolutionaries; thousands of scientists, personalities, and intellectuals; millions of members of various mass organizations; and people of all strata in the country as well as those currently living and working overseas.

Dear comrade delegates, the results of the recent political drive have affirmed the political unity within the party and between the party and the people. They confirmed that our renovation undertaking is correct and that it should continue to be strongly pushed forward. They also confirm our people's unshakable determination to follow the socialist path under the party leadership.

From this solemn podium, our congress warmly welcomes and thanks the various collectives and individuals inside the party and among the people at home and abroad for their wholehearted, constructive suggestions to the party congress documents. [applause] [end recording]

The Political Report of the sixth party Central Committee presented by Comrade Nguyen Van Linh includes five parts.

The first part: Persistence in Following the Socialist Path Is the Sole and Correct Choice.

The second part: Major Orientations in the Economic Policy.

The third: Renovation of the Political System and the Issue of Socialist Democracy.

The fourth part: The Issue Concerning the Party.

The fifth part: Initial Results of the Process of Renovation and Orientations and Major Tasks for the Years Ahead.

In this part, the Political Report of the sixth party Central Committee presented by Comrade Nguyen Van Linh points out the significance of the achievements recorded by our entire party and people in the more than four years of carrying out the process of renovation in compliance with the Sixth Congress resolution. He said:

Initial progress in the economy, life, and social democratization, together with the achievements in the domains of national defense and security and foreign relations, have significantly contributed to further restoring the people's confidence in the prospects of socialism and leadership of our people. This is a decisive factor in ensuring political stability in the face of the complex effects of the situation in the world and the country during the recent past.

The general picture of our country at present, on the socioeconomic plane as well as on the political, ideological, and social planes, has changed for the better. This is a change that everyone can appreciate, including foreigners.

He also held that obviously, we should not overassess our achievements and should not forget that our country still cannot extricate itself from the socioeconomic crisis. Next, Comrade Nguyen Van Linh said:

[Begin Nguyen Van Linh recording] Dear comrades, in the next five years, our country will face fierce challenges. Our people's pressing demands involve quickly extricating our country from the socioeconomic crisis and stabilizing and improving the people's livelihood. Meanwhile, international aid to our country has been substantially reduced, there are more foreign debts to service, our country still suffers from an economic embargo imposed by some international forces, and hostile forces are openly and covertly carrying out sabotage and exerting pressure from many directions. There is also a plot to carry out peaceful evolution by means of many insidious maneuvers. The task of national defense remains heavy. However, the opportunity for development is also very great if we correctly carry out renovation; have suitable policies and work methods to continue unleashing production power; bring into full play the potential of the economy. At the same time, we must make good use of the possibilities of expanding external relations; participate ever more deeply in the international division of labor; and attract capital, technology, and experience from the world for national construction.

The objective set for us for the next five years is to surmount the immediate acute difficulties, strengthen political stability, virtually extricate the country from the socioeconomic crisis, and realize part of the targets of the Strategy of Socioeconoimic Stabilization and Development Until the Year 2000. The guideline for fulfilling that objective is to unite and mobilize the forces of the people of all strata to carry out the two strategic tasks of building socialism and defending the fatherland and the revolutionary gains; to perfect the renovation policy and carry out renovation in a uniform, consistent, and efficient manner; to bring into play strong points and achievements; to overcome shortcomings and difficulties; and to strive to limit new deviations that may crop up. [applause] [end recording]

On the basis of the main tasks set forth in the Political Report and of its acceptance of the many suggestions contributed by party cadres and members and the people, the party Central Committee proposed a number of tasks that need to be handled with concentrated efforts. The most important tasks which are both fundamental and urgent are: First, we must make every effort to step up production. Second, we must continue to perfect the new mechanism of economic management, first of all in the financial and banking domains. Third, we must pay attention to and care for the issues related to social welfare policies on the basis of a major concept, the one holding that the main objective of development is for the people and by the people, first of all the working people, who are the moving force of development. Fourth, we must firmly defend the independence, sovereignty, and territorial intergrity of the fatherland, national security, and social order and safety. Fifth, we must continue to renew cadres and cadre-related work. And sixth, concerning external relations, of which the overriding tasks for the period ahead are to firmly maintain peace, to broaden relations of friendship and cooperation, to create favorable conditions for socialist construction and national defense, and to actively contribute to the common struggle of the world people for peace, national independence, democracy, and social progress. With our wide open foreign policy, we declare that Vietnam wants to be friends with all countries in the world community struggling for peace, independence, and development.

In conclusion, Conmrade General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh said:

[Begin Nguyen Van Linh recording] Dear comrade delegates to the congress, the next five years will be a time replete with trials but also full of prospects for our people. With their tradition of patriotism and our inherent revolutionary character, with their intelligence

and creative talents, our people will not resign themselves to poverty and backwardness. Our party has the great historic responsibility of leading the people in overcoming trials, fully exploiting opportunities, continuing to successfully carry out renovation, extricating the socioeconomy from crisis, improving the people's living conditions, firmly defending the fatherland, and advancing to successfully build socialism in our country along the line charted by the party's platform. That is the ardent desire of the entire party and people and of boundlessly esteemed Uncle Ho. If it can fulfill that historic responsibility, our party, together with our people, will make worthy contributions to the common cause of the world people for peace, national independence, democracy, and socialism. Our cause will certainly prevail! [prolonged applause] [end recording]

The Ba Dinh Conference Hall was resounding with applause which showed a complete identity of views with the report of the Sixth CPV Central Committee prsented by Comrade General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh. The opening session of our party's seventh congress closed amid an atmosphere of unity, singlemindedness, and determination to overcome all difficulties and trials, to surge forward for national development and form the people's happiness.

Vo Chi Cong Gives Opening Speech at Congress

BK2406031991 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 0205 GMT 24 Jun 91

[Opening speech by Vo Chi Cong, member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, at the opening of the Seventh National Party Congress of delegates of the Communist Party of Vietnam at Ba Dinh Conference Hall in Hanoi—live]

[Text] Members of the congress presidium, distinguished guests, delegates to the congress:

Today, the Seventh National Congress of Delegates of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] opens at the historic Ba Dinh Conference Hall. Attending the congress are 1,176 comrade delegates representing more than 2 million party members in different spheres of activities from all parts of the country or currently on official missions abroad. On behalf of the congress Presidium and the Sixth Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam, I heartily greet and extend my wishes for good health to the outstanding delegates of the glorious CPV, a party founded, educated, and trained by Uncle Ho. [applause]

Our congress warmly greets the CPSU delegation led by Comrade Oleg Semenovich Shenin, member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee [applause]; the delegation of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] led by Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan, chairman of the LPRP Central Committee [applause]; the delegation of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party [KPRP] led by Comrade Heng Samrin, general secretary of the KPRP Central Committee [appplause]; and the delegation of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] led by Comrade Yolanda Ferrer, alternate member of the PCC Central Committee Politburo [applause].

These delegates from fraternal parties bring with them warm friendship and precious support for the revolutionary cause of our party and people. [applause]

Also attending the opening of the congress are the comrade permanent representative of the Japan Communist Party in Hanoi, members of the diplomatic corps, and representatives of various national and international organizations and nongovernmental organizations in Hanoi. On behalf of the congress Presidium, I would like to greet and sincerely thank you for your presence [applause].

At this solemn opening ceremony, we recall the memory of Comrade Truong Chinh; Comrade Le Duc Tho, former adviser to the party Central Committee; and Comrade Pham Hung, former member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau. All were outstanding disciples of President Ho Chi Minh and assumed for many years heavy tasks in our party's highest-level leadership committee. They devoted their entire lives to serving the revolutionary cause of our nation and people.

We also remember the following comrade members of the party Central Committee who have passed away: Vu Lap, Nguyen Xuan Huu, Hoang Truong Minh, Lam Van The, along with many other party cadres and members, combatants, and beloved compatriots who have sacrificed their lives since the Sixth CPV Congress for the cause of building and defending the fatherland. I propose that the congress observe a minute's silence in their memory. [Delegates stand for several seconds] Please be seated, comrades.

Dear comrade delegates, each national party congress has its own important significance because it affects the development of the revolution in our country and our party.

More than four years ago, in this same conference hall, the Sixth CPV Congress set forth an all-round renovation line, creating a turning point in the cause of socialist construction in Vietnam.

Over the past several years, our entire party and people have persistently and untiringly struggled to apply the line of the Sixth CPV Congress to life. The duty of this party congress is to generally review the implementation of the sixth party congress resolution, evaluate achievements and what has not been done, newly emerging problems, and point out good points, shortcomings, causes, and experiences in carrying out renovation in all vital domains of social life. On this basis, the congress will set forth the guidelines, objectives, and main tasks for the coming five years.

The paramount significance of the seventh party congress lies in the fact that for the first time, the congress will approve a platform, point out the viewpoints and basic orientations for the period of transition to socialism in our country, and pass the strategy of socioeconomic stabilization and development until the year 2000. These issues are related to the task of perfecting the party's political leadership over the society and will further strengthen the scientific base of the party's major decisions.

Like other past congresses, the Seventh CPV Congress will review the performance of the party leadership, set forth the orientations and tasks for party-building work, make amendments to the party statutes, and elect the new party Central Committee.

It is necessary to stress that there is a new factor here: party-building work and the selection of high-level party personnel are taking place at a time when the revolutionary undertaking in our country is facing many challenges and many new opportunities and at a time when there are major changes in the various generations of leadership.

Thus, the special importance of the Seventh CPV Congress lies in the fact that it will decide not only the heavy tasks for the immediate future but also the great future of the revolution in our country and our party in the decades to come.

That spirit of the Seventh CPV Congress has been thoroughly understood and materialized in many positive, concrete, and effective deeds by the entire party and people to ensure the success of the congress. As early as February 1987, only a few months after the Sixth CPV Congress, the party Central Committee issued instructions on the drafting of the platform, which was followed by other documents such as the Socioeconomic Strategy, the Political Report, the Report on Party Building, and the Amended Party Statutes. The majority of party members and large numbers of the people from all strata; veteran revolutionaries; members of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union, the Vietnam Women's Union, and other mass organizations; scientists, personalities, intellectuals, and the mass media have actively contributed opinions to the abovementioned documents, which were prepared by the various subcommittees of the CPV Central Committee.

Many heartfelt and painstakingly prepared suggestions—the results of a profound process of thinking—were forwarded to the party Central Committee by collectives and individuals. These activities have become a political drive exhibiting the most widespread, diversified, and profound mass character seen in our country in years. This event has once again shown the spiritual strength, the unity of will, and the unanimity of view of large sections of party cadres and members and the people who are united around the CPV for the objective of national construction and defense and for the people's happiness on the path to socialism, which has been chosen by our party and people. There were discordant opinions which were at variance with this orientation, but they belonged to a very small number of people and were not accepted by our people.

The preparation of personnel for the new party Central Committee was also conducted seriously from the lower echelon up and from the upper echelon down in a democratic and collective manner. The Central Committee, the Political Bureau, the Personnel Department of the CPV Central Committee [Ban Nhaan Suwj Trung Uwowng] have attentively listened to many suggestions and have studied the proposals made by various party organizations, mass organizations, collectives, and individuals concerning the orientations, criteria, composition, and number as well as each specific person expected to be elected to the Seventh CPV Central Committee.

On the basis of the constructive suggestions contributed by the party congresses at various levels and by the people of various strata, the recent 12th and 13th plenums of the CPV Central Committee accepted, discussed, and improved for the last time the various documents as well as the list of Central Commitee personnel to be submitted to the congress for a decision. I would like to report to the congress that the 12th and 13th plenums of the CPV Central Committee basically achieved a unanimity of views on the major contents of the documents presented to the congress. It can be said that the intellect of the entire party and people has been synthesized and crystallized in the documents presented to the Seventh CPV Congress. This is an important factor ensuring the success of the congress. I would like to suggest that the congress warmly welcome the large sections of party members and cadres and our compatriots of all circles who have actively and effectively contributed to the success of the congress. [applause]

Dear comrade delegates, as the party Central Committee has stressed several times, our seventh party congress is held against a complex international and domestic situation. The spreading troubles in socialist countries, the attack from many directions on socialism, Marxism-Leninism, and the Communist Party; the cruel plots and maneuvers of international reactionary forces, which are aimed at eliminating realistic socialism by the end of this century, will cause confusion and vaccillation among a component of communists and revolutionaries in the world. All these things have, on a daily basis, a great deal of influence upon the thought and feelings of a component of our party cadres and members and our people. Moreover, our country has to face directly the subversive activities of the enemy, the reactionaries in exile, and hostile forces within the country. However, owing to the very important initial achievements we have scored over the past more than four years in implementing the resolution of the Sixth CPV Congress, we have stood firm and have continued to advance. The proof of this is that at this congress, we will map out a plan to consolidate the achievements already recorded and prepare for new steps of development in the future.

However, none of us can afford a false sense of security in this situation because countless difficulties and obstacles still lie ahead and contradictions continue to emerge one after another. Such is life and that is the law of evolution.

There are fundamental conditions that will allow us to firmly march forward instead of shrinking from difficulties. On the one hand, our party has a correct political line to rally the entire people and develop their aggregate strength. At the same time, our party is pure, strong, and firm and displays high militancy. More than ever before, these two interrelated and especially urgent factors require us to make greater efforts to reach new heights, thus guaranteeing conditions for the party to be worthy of its role as the vanguard brigade of the working class and a faithful representative of the interests of the worker-peasant alliance, the laboring people, and the entire nation.

These are the key issues which our Seventh CPV Congress will have to tackle. To this end, and to develop the results of the views contributed by all party members and the people to the congress draft documents, I would like to call your attention to the following points:

First, you comrade delegates should continue to study and discuss the various documents and contribute more views. In this way, conditions will be created to perfect the documents a step further. The delegates to the party congresses at all levels and the party Central Committee plenums have already studied, discussed, and adopted the draft documents. However, in my opinion, to arrive at the truth, one has to go through a lot of thinking and reasoning. It cannot be said that we have completed our discussions; it is important to remember that we did not focus on the various issues raised in the draft documents but only on fundamental issues that need further clarifications or that contain major different viewpoints.

The Presidium will brief the congress on those key issues.

There is another requirement the congress must fulfill: Through discussion and debate, our congress will reach a greater unanimity of thought on the standpoints, principles, and key contents of the documents. This is of utmost importance because it will guarantee ideological and political singlemindedness within the party and in society and will serve as the basis for adopting concrete actions aimed at successfully implementing the Seventh CPV Congress resolutions.

Second, the congress must wisely select a seventh party Central Committee with typical political quality and revolutionary virtues and with sufficient intellect and practical capabilities to successfully introduce the resolution of the Seventh CPV Congress to life. We must closely observe the required criteria and composition, quantity and quality, with criteria being considered the number one issue. Recently, the party Central Committee, the Political Bureau, and the Personnel Subcommittee [Tieeur Ban Nhaan Suwj] upheld their sense of responsibility in selecting personnel for the Central Committee. The result is that a list of personnel for the next Central Committee has been drawn up and will be presented to the congress for consideration and decision. The delegates will add to, or reduce the personnel on this list, and before voting, they may demand explanations about cases that they still do not understand in order to select a worthy Central Committee capable of shouldering important work to be entrusted by the congress.

To achieve this aim, it is necessary to have an objective attitude, a sense of justice, a desire to place the interests of the party and revolution above all, and a determination not to allow persons motivated by political opportunism, individualism, localism, and corruption to worm their way into the top leadership.

Third, the principle of democratic centralism must truly be brought into full play in discussion and debate of the opinions contributed to the various documents, in elections and running for elections, and in handling congress work in order to create an atmosphere of openmindedness and mutual trust. This is an important basis for achieving a high unanimity of views among the delegates on the issues to be presented to the congress.

Fourth, we must absolutely abide by the work procedures of the Seventh CPV Congress. This is a condition for ensuring that the congress will proceed smoothly according to plan.

Comrade delegates, if the tasks mentioned above are accomplished, we are convinced that the Seventh CPV Congress will fulfill its important responsibility and will be a congress of intellect, renovation, democracy, law and discipline, and unity, and will respond to the aspiration of the entire party and people.

In this spirit, I declare the Seventh CPV Congress open and wish it fine success. [applause]

Nguyen Van Linh Reads Political Report

BK2406094991 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 0228 GMT 24 Jun 91

["Abridged Political Report" read by CPV General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh at the opening session of the Seventh National Party Congress at the Ba Dinh Conference Hall in Hanoi on 24 June—live]

[Text] Dear Presidium members, dear distinguished international guests, and dear comrade delegates to the congress:

Our congress has to consider five major documents: The Platform for National Construction in the Period of Transition to Socialism, the Strategy of Socioeconomic Stabilization and Development Until the Year 2000, the Political Report, the Report on Party Building, and amendments to the Party Statute and the amended Party Statute.

The aforementioned draft documents are attached to the reports on the acceptance and handling of ideas contributed by party members and the people who have sent them to the delegates. Each delegation has studied them. I deem it unnecessary to represent each of those documents here. The party Central Committee would like to report before the congress some major issues that permeate the document. They are the issues on which all party members and people have contributed many views, though they differ at times. To prepare the party congress documents, in February 1987, the Political Bureau established a committee to compile the platform and the socioeconomic strategy. In March 1990, when it was deemed necessary to further raise the collectivity in preparing the various party congress documents, the party Central Committee's eighth plenum decided to establish five subcommittees of its own. Each subcommittee has gathered many views contributed by the party Central Committee members, leading and management cadres, delegates of all circles, mass organizations, and the Fatherland Front, scientists and experts who have many experiences in all domains and regions of the country. They include in-service and retired cadres.

Each draft document was carefully discussed and modified several times before it was announced to solicit broad views from among all party members and the people.

At the 12th Plenum of the CPV Central Committee, on the basis of the final review of the suggestions made by the first-round party congresses at various levels, the party Central Committee discussed, accepted the suggestions, and revised the draft documents before fowarding them to the congress. The solicitation of suggestions from the entire party and people to the elaboration of the various documents of the congress really became a broad drive of democratic political activities attracting more than 80 percent of party members throughout the country; hundreds of comrade veteran revolutionaries; thousands of scientists, personalities, and intellectuals; millions of members of various mass organizations; and people of all strata in the country, as well as those currently living and working overseas.

The forms in which suggestions were made were highly diversified, including conferences, seminars, statements in the press and on the radio, letters, direct meetings between responsible leaders and contributors of ideas, and so forth. The party Central Committee received many letters welcoming our party's policy of implementing democracy and contributing to the elaboration of the various documents of the congress. The political maturity, the deep concern for the country's destiny, the considerable intellectual potential of party cadres and members and large numbers of the people—these were the outstanding characteristics of the drive to make suggestions to the elaboration of the documents of the congress. This was accomplished owing to the realities of renovation over the past few years, to international experiences—including successful and unsuccessful ones—and to the thinking of each person with a high sense of responsibility for the present and future of the country.

Naturally, there have been differences in the suggestions. That was normal. We can divide the suggestions into a few principal categories as follows:

—The first category, which accounts for the majority of opinions. These suggestions basically agree with the viewpoints of the draft documents;

—The second category, which comprises a fairly large number of suggestions. These suggestions propose many important supplements and revisions;

—The third category, which does not represent many opinions but is noteworthy. This category consists of vastly different opinions which we still need to study and screen in order to accept the reasonable aspects of each opinion; and

—The fourth category, which is quite rare. These are viewpoints alien to our party and people.

Generally speaking, the common trend of the suggestions showed a basic agreement with and contributed to supplementing, revising, and improving the quality of the draft documents. Many of the suggestions have been accepted and incorporated in the documents of the congress. Some of the suggestions have been only partly incorporated. Not a few suggestions which were good but not suitable for inclusion in the draft documents will be used by the Seventh CPV Central Committee in leading the implemetation of the various resolutions of the Seventh CPV Congress.

Dear comrade delegates, the results of the recent political drive have affirmed the political unity within the party and between the party and the people. They confirmed that our renovation undertaking is correct and that it should continue to be strongly pushed forward. They also confirm our people's unshakable determination to follow the socialist path under the party leadership. [applause]

From this solemn podium, our congress warmly welcomes and thanks the various collectives and individuals inside the party and among the people at home and abroad for their wholehearted, constructive suggestions to the party congress documents. [applause]

I would like to deal with point one: Persistence in following the socialist path is the sole and correct choice.

Dear comrades, the overall profound crisis facing socialist countries has caused socialism to experience an unprecedentedly fierce criticism from many sides. Regrettably, even in the communist ranks, there are indications of ideological vacillation and rejection of past achievements, and henceforth, a negation of the socialist path.

It is particularly significant to note that against such a complicated backdrop and in the framework of the drive to contribute constructive suggestions to the party congress draft documents, most of the opinions expressed unanimously agreed with the socialist goals chosen by President Ho Chi Minh and our entire party and people, and confirmed the determination of our entire party and people to go all the way along the path leading to those goals. [applause]

Indeed, there is no other alternative for our nation to bring about genuine national independence, freedom, and happiness for the people. I deem it necessary to point out that this is a resolute choice made by history itself, back in 1930, when our party came into existence at a time when all national liberation movements ranging from the Can Vuong movement to the movements initiated by the bourgeoisie and petty bourgeoisie, could not withstand the test of history.

Our people under the party banner have developed to the highest degree the indomitable traditions of national heroism, have fought and sacrificed for decades to basically fulfill the tasks of the people's national democratic revolution, and have shifted to the implementation of the tasks of the period of transition to socialism.

There is no reason for them to deviate from that course at variance from the chosen objective. There is no reason why we must hand over countless revolutionary gains, which are the fruit of the blood and bones of so many Vietnamese generations, to those forces that have driven the nation into the capitalist path, which will surely fail to secure neither genuine national independence for our people nor freedom and true happiness for the vast majority of the masses. There is also no reason for us to go back to the period of the people's national democratic revolution and start everything all over again.

If there are tasks that remain to be done or that need to be carried out satisfactorily, let us try to finish them during the period of transition to socialism.

For this very reason, our people resolve not to accept any other path than the socialist one. [applause]

What is the concept of socialism and what is the nature of the path toward socialism in our country? Do we have an accurate concept on socialism at a time when socialism is facing crisis, theoretically and practically? Because of these major, unanswered questions, a number of our comrades raised the question whether it is necessary for our party to formulate the platform in this situation.

Indeed, there are certain limitations to theory and practice when we started formulating the platform. However, this is not the obstacle that we cannot overcome. Socialism has a more than 70-year long history during which it has scored achievements and experienced failures in some respects. These are valuable experiences. However, we have also gained experience in our reorganization and reform during the past years. This has helped us to realize many important issues in our achievements and blunders. These are concrete bases helping us to make essential conclusions under the guidance of the Marxist-Leninist doctrine, which has been creatively applied in our country.

In formulating the platform, we have made efforts to include these conclusions. With the efforts and intellectual contributions made by the entire party and people, the main aspects of the concept of socialism and the path toward socialism have taken shape. Of course, our current concepts—though they are correct today—will be supplemented and developed tomorrow, together with the development of reality, thought, and theory.

I would like to mention here some points in the part dealing with characteristics of the socialist society which we are going to build, and some fundamental orientations aimed at successfully building this society.

After the draft platform has been announced to solicit ideas from cadres, party members, and the people, the part dealing with the fundamental characteristics of the socialist society—which we are going to build—has been firmly asserted through the contributions of ideas and viewpoints. These include the following characteristics:

First, the laboring people are masters. Second, we must have an effectively developed economy based on a system of public ownership of all key production means, and a modern education system characterizing our national color. Third, men will be liberated from suppression and unjustice. They will work according to their capability, earn according to their labor, and are provided with conditions to comprehensively develop themselves. Fourth, people of various nationalities in our country will be treated equally. They must strengthen their unity and provide help to one another to advance further together. And fifth, we must maintain friendship and promote cooperation with peoples of all nations.

These fundamental guiding orientations for building socialism have been formulated through the hard work, great efforts, and extensive intellectual contributions made by the entire party and people, putting into consideration the experiences of achievements and shortcomings in the process of building socialism at home and abroad.

These orientations carry a principled characteristic ensuring a correct path toward socialism while firmly upholding the spirit of renovation, thus helping us to refrain from making repeated mistakes. For instance, in the past when we guided the implementation of the revolution of production relations, we advocated a quick elimination of the multicomponent economy, called for the establishment of a public ownership system absolutely occupying superiority over the national economy, rejected the essence of goods production, and slowly eliminated bureaucratic centralism and state subsidies. In this platform, however, the guiding thought of the

revolution of production relations carries a spirit of renovation while ensuring the path toward socialism with the following tasks:

—Efforts will be made to advance in line with the development of the production force.

—Strive to build step by step production relations, from the lower to the higher levels with diversified forms of ownership.

—Develop a multicomponent commodity-based economy in accordance with the socialist direction, in which the state-run and collective economy will be gradually strengthened.

—Carry out various forms of distribution. Distribution will be based chiefly on the results of productive labor and economic results.

At this point, I would like to discuss an important item: the issue of proletarian dictatorship. As we are aware, the fundamental substance of proletarian dictatorship is the fact that the administration belongs to the people, especially the working class and the laboring people, both in mind and body. That administration must go by the line of the working class, of which the vanguard unit is the Communist Party, to apply that substance to there conditions in Vietnam.

The draft platform says: build the socialist state—the state of the people, for the people, and by the people—which uses the worker-peasant-intellectual alliance as its foundation. This is to be done under the Communist Party's leadership. Our state is to bring into full play the people's democratic rights, strictly maintain social discipline, and dictatorially deal with all acts of violation of the interests of the country and people.

I would also like to elaborate on another point I just mentioned concerning the issue of our state. The new issue lies in the fact that the platform this time refers not only to the worker-peasant alliance but also to the worker-peasant-intellectual alliance. The majority of our comrades, except for some, have subscribed to this viewpoint, considering it a very correct and essential supplementary point.

It is true that the intelligentsia have played an important role in the national democratic revolution and are playing an even more important role in socialist construction. Socialism cannot be built if the working class does not have its own contingent of intellectuals, and the worker-peasant alliance itself fails to improve its knowledge or to achieve intellectualization.

We are living at a particular time when scientific and modern industrial revolution, together with social revolution, is taking place with strong consequences for life in all nations, for the process of economic development of the world, and for the revolutionary process of social reform itself. For this reason, the role of the intelligentsia is becoming increasingly important.

Certainly, this does not lower the role of the worker-peasant in any way, and it is serious mistake to allow the increasingly important role of the intelligentsia to lead us to lowering the role of the working class and peasantry—the two basic classes of our society.

The working class, peasantry, and intelligentsia in our country are known to have secured a close attachment to each other. This is due to the fact that they all have shared the same fate as citizens of a country under foreign domination in the past, and that the majority of intellectuals are children or brothers and sisters of workers and peasants who have received training under the socialist regime.

There are also many intellectuals who have descended from other classes. However, in the process of revolution, they have voluntarily advocated the stand of the working class.

The intellectuals of our country are warmly patriotic and straighforwardly desire to make contributions to the cause of people's prosperity and the country's power. The socialist cause requires that the alliance bloc be expanded from the peasant-worker alliance to the alliance of the working class with the peasantry and intellectuals.

I now come to the second issue concerning the major orientations of the economic policy. The economic development along the line of socialist construction in our country is the process of liberating the production force, inspiring all potential, mobilizing all the Vietnamese people and creating conditions for them to develop their self-reliance, thriftily building and defending the country, and striving to enrich themselves and the country.

The economic development undertaking places man in the central position and combines economic growth with social justice and progress. In the nineties decade, we must overcome the difficulties and acute challenges, extricate ourselves from the crises, stabilize the socioeconomic situation, struggle to surmount the condition of a poor and underdeveloped country, improve the people's livelihood, build socioeconomic infrastructures, develop education and training, increase scientific and technological capabilities, meet the requirements of the nineties, and make preparations for the future.

We must consolidate national defense; firmly maintain political security, social order, and public safety; and secure an environment of peace, stability, and cooperation for economic development. These objectives require that the 1990 total production volume in the country be doubled by the year 2000.

To attain these objectives, we advocate the consistent implementation of the policy of a multisectorial economy with a socialist orientation. Everyone can freely do business according to law, and his right to ownership and legal income can be protected. All forms of ownership can be combined and integrated to develop

the relations of ownership of autonomous businesses. Cooperation is a way to compete with one another and to be equal before law.

The state economy must be consolidated and developed in the key sectors and domains. We must control the vital businesses and trades, and assume those operations in which other economic sectors have no suitable conditions in which to investment. In this connection, the state economic sector must be rearranged for technological renovation and managerial organization. It must do effective business, rally with and support other economic sectors, and implement its leading role and function as a large-scale management tool of the state.

Regarding those installations that no longer maintain state-owned arrangements, their business and ownership should be transformed, or they must be disbanded. At the same time, jobs and the livelihood of workers must be settled. The tendency to make light of the state economy and to privatize liberally the economy would seem to assert that it is a mistake to privatize ownership in order to shift to the market-oriented mechanism. Obviously, it is not correct to both maintain and develop the state economy in a widespread manner, prolonging the mechanism of subsidization.

As for the collective economy, we should renovate its organization and operational procedures for practical results, and develop broadly and fruitfully various sectors and trade organizations on different scales and degrees of collectivization. In order to develop and combine the strengths of collectives and members of agricultural cooperatives, we advocate the policy of considering cooperative members' households as autonomous economic units. At the same time, we should intensify the role of the cooperatives' management committees in the managerial and operational control of production and the organization of services in those tasks and areas where cooperative members' households have no conditions to perform, or where they perform less effectively than the collectives do.

Together with the administration and various mass organizations, cooperatives help implement the various social policies and build a new countryside. Land and ricefields belong to the entire people and are allocated to cooperative members' households for long-term use. The party Central Committee's twefth plenum held that it is impossible to privatize land and ricefields because it will lead to serious a division of classes, impede planning for the construction of infrastructures and other material bases, and put further strain on the problem of the already complex problem of land disputes.

Concerning the collective economy, it still retains a relatively large scale and will be developed among the various sectors and trades in the cities and rural areas. No limitations will be imposed on its expansion of business activities. It can exist independently, or it can join various forms of cooperatives or set up joint ventures with large business organizations under many different forms. The advance to cooperation in business will be realized in accordance with the principle of voluntariness and mutual benefit, and without coercion.

Regarding the private capitalist economy, it may do business in those sectors that benefit the national economy and people's welfare as prescribed by the law. The state may set up joint ventures in many different forms with the private sector inside and outside the country to create a form of state capitalist economy.

Concerning the household economy, it is not an independent economic component but will be encouraged to develop strongly. The transformation of various economic sectors in the advance to socialism takes place under many forms suitable to the characteristics and development standards of the production forces, and will play the role of promoting the vigorous and effective development of social production. To develop the great potential of the multisectoral economy, we must continue to wipe out the mechanism of bureaucratic centralism and state subsidies and shift to the market-oriented mechanism under state management control by law, plans, policies, and other tools. Market-oriented business organizations will choose their own sphere of activities, their kinds of goods, their technical scale, and their forms of organization and trading operations in order to achieve the highest efficiency in an environment of cooperation and competition.

The state plays a very important role in creating macroeconomic balances, regulating the market, preventing and handling untoward sudden changes, creating a normal environment and conditions for production and business operations, and ensuring the compatibility between economic growth and social justice and progress. In its capacity as the proprietor representing the all-people ownership, the state also has the function of managing and controlling the use of national property in order to preserve and develop this property, clearly delineating the responsibilities and power of the owners and the managing directors in the state enterprises, and devising mechanisms to ensure correct exercise of these respsonsibilities and power.

A developed commodity economy demands that we continue to overcome the state of autarky, partitioning, and closed-door policy. Let all grass-roots units, sectors, localities, and the entire economic system bring into full play their relatively favorable positions; ceaselessly increase the competitiveness of their goods; satisfy as best they can the demands of production and life; strongly shift to export activities and substitute the goods that can be efficiently produced in the country for imports; broaden and diversify external economic relations and turn them into multilateral ones on the basis of the principle of firmly maintaining independence, sovereignty, and mutual benefit; and attract foreign sources of development in order to strongly bring into full play domestic advantages and sources of development.

Some opinions maintain that because our strength is still very weak, we must rely on outside sources of development as a mainstay in order to achieve fast development. This is a way of thinking that has not not escaped from the habit of depending on foreign aid. We should realize that external economic relations must be based on the principle of equality and mutual benefit. Therefore, these relations can only expand and yield good results when they are built on and directed toward the maximum exploitation of all the sources of development and advantages inside the country. The will for self-reliance does not contradict the effort to attract foreign sources of development. On the contrary, it constitutes the fundamental conditions for such attraction.

It is necessary to combine economic growth closely with the process of building material and technical bases and change the economic structure toward gradual industrialization to extricate ourselves from being a backward agricultural country.

Many people have suggested that agriculture should be considered as the first and foremost front in the socioeconomic strategy up to the year 2000. Given the situation in our country, it is correct to stress the particularly important role of agriculture. However, to carry out agricultural development, we must intensify our industrial potential with the aim of satisfying the needs of agriculture, both in terms of input and output. Only in this way can we ensure a high rate of economic growth, create an abundant source of accumulation, and industrialize our country step by step.

These documents express the following viewpoints concerning changing the economic structure in the 1990's:

—Developing agriculture, forestry, and fishery along with the processing industry is the most important task aimed at stabilizing the socioeconomic situation, while inreasing the pace and scope of industry;

— Expanding the service-based economy [kinh tees dichj vuj] along the line of fully mobilizing all capabilities to produce consumer and export goods;

— Stepping up the exploration, exploitation, and processing of oil and natural gas and various other kinds of minerals;

— Carrying out the selective development of a number of industrial and other material production sectors and infrastructural installations, with priority being given to the development of electricity, communications, water conservancy, and signal and liaison facilities.

The process of industrializing and modernizing the country calls for an appropriate technological policy that can make optimum use of the advantage of recently stepping into the new scientific and technological revolution in the world. Some people want to leap straight into modern technology in a general way. Our point of view is that since the standard of production forces in our country is still low, our labor is excessive and our capital is still limited, we have to combine many levels of technology to use the technologies on hand in the best way, improving step by step and raising the level of our technology and striving to acquire new technologies while selecting each aspect and each task of each sector and each installation capable of advancing directly to new technologies. For example: When most of the work needs manual labor, we still can apply modern biotechnology to modify breeds, seeds, crop seasons and processing regulations in order to quickly increase productivity and the quality of the end product.

We should accelerate even more vigorously scientific and technological education and training, considering it the primary national policy to promote the human factor that is the direct motive force of development. In the immediate future, we must popularize Level I education, raise the educational standard of the people, conduct job training for large numbers of youths, quickly increase the number of skilled workers, and train cadres of many levels, especially management cadres, businessmen, scientific experts and technicians. Attention should be paid to detecting, fostering and treasuring geniuses. We must quickly renovate the mechanism of educational management and scientific and technological training to suit the multisectorial market economy along the socialist orientation, linking the development of these domains closely with production and other socioeconomic objectives.

On the one hand, the state will increase its investment and, on the other, it will formulate policies for all the people and all economic sectors to work together and contribute to this undertaking. Most countries, when faced with the development of production forces, must carry out educational reforms in order to have a contingent of workers with skill levels suitable to the progress of science and technology.

We must summarize the recent educational reform in order to establish suitable guidelines for the period ahead. This is a strategic issue and, at the same time, a pressing problem to be solved.

Now let us move on to point three.

Dear comrades, we realize the importance of the renovation of the political system. However, the problem is to work out appropriate contents, forms, and steps. In the initial stage, it is the party's policy to attach primary importance to economic renovation and to bring into full play all potentials in order to release productive forces and generate a large quantity of goods to meet the pressing demands of the people's livelihood. At the same time, along with economic renovation, we seek ways to renovate the political system step by step.

Politics is an extremely complicated field of activity. Attempts to effect drastic political renovation without the necessary premises and without adequate steps will lead to political instability, which, in turn, will cause countless difficulties and obstacles to the overall renovation process. This is an important lesson drawn from the

realities in our country as well as from the experiences derived from restructuring and reform in a number of fraternal countries.

As far as our political system is concerned, the party assumes leadership to guarantee that power belongs to the people. The people exercise their power first of all through popularly elected organs. The National Assembly and the people's councils at all levels must have full power delegated by the people. After several years of renovation, marked progress has been recorded in this domain. However, there is still much room for improvement if we are to meet the people's aspirations.

The party is resolved to combat arbitrariness, autocracy, and the tendency by some people to act as a powerful figure for state organs and mass organizations. However, it is advisable not to use this as a pretext for the leadership to let things drift because this simply means more mistakes. Furthermore, we must remain vigilant against a saying by demagogues that the party should return power to the state and the people. Actually, the real motive behind that saying is to drive a wedge between the party and people and to deprive the party of its leadership role. Realities show that if the party of the working class is deprived of its leadership role, power will no longer belong to the people and the social system will be subjected to change.

In order to secure the party's leadership role and the bond between the party and people, we must first of all satisfactorily resolve the relations between the party and the state.

The state has received power from the people and is responsible for handling all aspects of social life. The purpose of party leadership is to secure conditions for the state to develop its active role. The efficiency and strength of the state are proof of the efficiency of party leadership. Here, there is absolutely no such thing as a contradiction between enhancement of party leadership and the consolidation of state efficiency or the need to sacrifice one factor for another. Instead, it only involves singlemindedness, which helps increase the strength generated by party leadership and state management.

Revolution is an undertaking of the people, for the people, and by the people. The bond between the party and the people always remains a decisive factor for the success of the revolutionary undertaking. The source of strength guaranteeing our victories rests with the close relationship between the party and people.

Under the system of party leadership over state management, the relationship between the party and people is manifested vividly through the roles of the state, the Vietnam Fatherland Front, and mass organizations. Therefore, it is necessary for us to renovate party leadership patterns, consolidate state management mechanisms, and improve the activities and operating procedures of the Fatherland Front and mass organizations. In this way, there will exist conditions for rallying people of different social classes in the great national unity bloc and for bringing into full play their material, spiritual, and intellectual potential to support the struggle to build a prosperous and powerful country and to gradually advance to socialism.

The essence of the renovation and consolidation of the political system in our country is to build a socialist democratic system. Democracy is the law governing the development and self-improvement of the socialist political system. Democratization is both an objective and a driving force for social reform in our country. Democracy cannot exist without centralism, discipline, order, and a sense of one's civic duties.

Democracy must go hand in hand with the legal system. Genuine democracy, on the one hand, opposes arbitrariness and dictatorship, and on the other, opposes anarchic liberalism. We should be vigilant against demagogic maneuvers which take advantage of the democratic banner to stir up disturbances. Some people maintain that only with the mechanism of political pluralism and the existence of opposition parties and factions can we have democracy. As a matter of fact, the presence or absence of democracy does not depend on the one-party or multiparty system; under the former Saigon puppet regime, there were dozens of political parties and factions, but no one thought there was much democracy then. The choice of a one-party or a multiparty system reflects and results from the balance of forces in the political and class struggles. Consequently, it is a product of the specific historical conditions of each specific country in a given period.

In our country's situation, there is no objective necessity to establish an opposition mechanism of political pluralism and multipartyism. To accept the multiparty system of opposition is to create conditions for the reactionary forces of revenge within the country and from abroad to rear their heads immediately and legally to operate against the homeland, the people and the regime. Our people definitely reject this.

The problem remains as to what we should do to secure adequate democracy under one-party leadership. We must scrupulously reflect on this issue with an adequate sense of responsibility to the people. Well aware of this, our party has sought to renovate itself and seek various mechanisms, forms and specific and effective procedures to allow for accomplishing adequate democracy within the party and in social life in order to optimally develop the role, strength, self-consciousness and creativity of people of all strata in the administration of the country and society, and in national construction and defense.

Finally, we should pay attention to one more point: In assessing democracy, we cannot merely refer to slogans but must see how democracy has actually been implemented in practical life, whether that democracy is true or only formal, and whether democracy is for the majority or the minority of the people who make up the

exploiting ruling class. This is the fundamental principle that must not be confused or mixed up.

Now, I would like to talk about the fourth issue, that is, the party issue. Dear comrades: The party issue was among the subjects which received the most comments during the drive to solicit public views on the party congress documents. Most prominent of all is the question concerning the class nature of the party. After many discussions of the draft platform and amended statutes, it is now asserted that our party is the vanguard unit of the working class and the faithful delegate of the interests of the working class, the laboring people and the whole nation. The party has used Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh's thoughts as an ideological base and a compass for action and has employed democratic centralism as the fundamental organizational principle. [applause]

Persistence in following Marxism-Leninism is the first principled issue of our party. [applause] Loyalty to Marxism-Leninism means that we must firmly grasp the revolutionary and scientific nature of Marxism-Leninism, correctly and properly apply it to the conditions in our country, and creatively contribute to developing Marxism-Leninism. We must struggle against allegations and maneuvers from hostile forces and opportunists who attack, reject and distort Marxism-Leninism. [applause]

What is new in the documents of this party congress is that together with Marxism-Leninism, the party upholds Ho Chi Minh's thought. This is natural because Ho Chi Minh's thought mainly resulted from his creative application of Marxism-Leninism to the specific conditions of our country and in reality, Ho Chi Minh's thought has become a precious spiritual asset of the party and the entire nation.

The CPV is the product of the union between Marxism-Leninism and the workers movement and the patriotic movement of the Vietnamese people. President Ho Chi Minh was the most perfect embodiment of that union, the shining symbol of the combination of class and nation, national and international, national independence and socialism. [applause] Ho Chi Minh's thought is extremely close to every Vietnamese and intimately linked with our people's boundless love for Uncle Ho and for his great services and pure revolutionary virtues. For this reason, reference to Ho Chi Minh's thought is in accordance with the revolutionary realities in our country and with the sentiments and aspirations of our entire party and people. [applause]

In affirming the working class character of the party, we do not separate the party and working class from other strata of laboring people and from the entire nation. From its founding, the party has borne within itself the unity between the class factor and the national factor. It was the position and interests of the working class that demanded, first of all, that the nation must be liberated. The party has found its sources of strength not only in the working class but also in other strata of laboring people and in the entire nation. Proceeding from that fact, the laboring people and the entire nation have recognized our party as their leader, the genuine representative of their basic and vital interests. [applause]

To fulfill the weighty responsibilities entrusted by history, our party considers renovating and reorganizing itself and enhancing its leadership as a requirement of paramount importance in party building work, a regular task ensuring that our party is always capable of dealing with the revolutionary tasks entrusted to it. That is also our people's aspiration and demand. Party renovation and reorganization are aimed at making the party stable and strong politically, ideologically, and organizationally. The question of primary importance is that we must continue to renew thinking and raise the political standard of the party to a new level of development. Now more than ever before, if it is to lead the renovation process to success, our party must enhance its level of knowledge and its skills for practical organization, ranging from the ability to detect and grasp the law that governs the evolution of the life of our society and of the party itself, to knowledge of the world and our time. Only on this basis will the party be able to set forth correct lines and policies, avoid errors and shortcomings, and ensure the successful implementation of its lines and policies.

The party enriches its intellect by constantly raising its theoretical standards, and firmly adhering to and creatively applying the basic theses and methodology of Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh's thought. At the same time, it must unceasingly review the vivid practical experiences of the mass revolutionary movement, develop the party's theoretical work by reviewing practice and the new factors that are emerging every day and every hour in the life of our country and all the world, and benefit from the intellectual achievements of all mankind. That is the basic orientation for enriching the party's intellect and for perfecting and developing the party's lines.

Another issue that attracted the attention of a large number of people who contributed their ideas is the principle of democratic centralism. Our party considers this a fundamental organizational principle that distinguishes the uniqueness of the working class party—the authentic revolutionary party—from other political parties. Accepting this principle constitutes a recognition of the Communist Party's characteristics, the party that opposes bureaucratic centralism, arbitrariness, and usurpation while strictly observing the principle of democratic centralism. Only by implementing the principle of domecratic centralism will we be able to oppose bureaucratic centralism, anarchy, and factionalism while ensuring unanimity in thought and action of the party. This will help enhance the strength and militancy of the party.

The draft amended party statutes stresses full democratic practices within the party. First of all, efforts must be made to ensure the rights of party members, especially

the right to hold frank discussions, at their organizations, on issues related to the party's lines and policies; the right to criticize and inquire about the activities of party organizations and of party members at all levels. The draft amended party statutes also expands party members' right to gain access to information and to defend their opinions. These revised regulations provide a condition for overcoming the situation in which party committees infringe upon the right of party members while the latter adopt a passive attitude. While encouraging full democratic practice, the draft amended party statutes strongly stress the need to observe discipline and maintain unanimity within the party. Experience drawn from history shows that when a party ignores the principle of democratic centralism, it will become a sort of club which will benefit opportunism, factionalism, and all types of arnachy that finally will lead to the disintegration of the party organizationally, that is the abolition of the party.

The party draft documents particularly stress efforts to strengthen unity and unanimity within the party on the basis of Marxism-Leninism, the political platform, and principles of the party's organization and activities. Unity is the noble tradition of our party and people, a priceless legacy left by President Ho Chi Minh, and a source of strength for an inevitable victory of the revolution. [applause]

To preserve solidarity and unity within the party, it is necessary to adequately implement democracy in party activities, employ vigorous self-criticism and criticism in a sincere and frank manner out of comradeship and mutual respect and love; relentlessly struggle against individualism, sectarianism, localism, departmentalism, opportunism, and all factional manifestations in the party. It is also necessary to strictly prohibit persecution carried out against critics and oppose efforts to take advantage of criticism to condemn and denounce individuals with the aim of sowing division.

Today, against the background of new issues at home and abroad, different ideas are prevalent within the party. This is a normal phenomenon. Debates with objectives, principles, and truth as well as for the common interest will not lead to disunity. On the contrary, issues that easily achieve an identity of views are but a manifestation of unity just for form's sake; it does not last long. When every party member, regardless of age or rank, realizes the need to preserve unity within the party as the apple of their eye and to do everything for the truth and common interests of the party in a principled manner and not for individual motive, then we can safeguard the traditional unity of our party.

During discussion of the congress documents, many suggestions were made on the issue of party cadres and members and the issue of the party's and state's organization mechanism, expressing the wish to see the party make vigorous changes in these areas.

When the party leads the administration, each party member, regardless of his position, must be an exemplary citizen and struggle to comprehensively raise the level of his knowledge in conformity with the new requirements and tasks. By his creative labor, he must contribute to doing away with poverty and backwardness, heighten the living standard of the people, and be exemplary in observing law and in leading an ethical life. Party members must perform well the tasks of motivating and organizing the masses to implement all the guidelines and policies of the party and state. Party organizations and members must operate within the limits of the Constitution and law.

Party members, like all citizens, are equal in terms of duties and benefits. No one can enjoy privileges and prerogatives. Party members must consider serving the people and the struggle for party ideal as their raison d'etre. Raising the quality of party members is currently a pressing demand. We must resolutely deal with those degenerate and deviant party members and admit for party membership those who have proved to be really outstanding in the renovation process. Purifying the ranks of party members will not only increase the militancy of the party but also the people's confidence in the party. Cadres and cadre tasks are really a fundamental and pressing demand that must be renovated in terms of viewpoints, methods, policies, and organization in order to meet not only the requirements of today's national construction but also to prepare the revolutionary generations for succeeding our party and nation in the future.

We must oppose conservatism and sluggishness. At the same time, we should not simplify the renovation of cadres and cadre tasks. Our country is not short of geniuses. The problem is to have suitable policies and mechanisms to detect, foster, and treasure geniuses. Renovation is an opportunity to screen and test cadres. The party must be clear-sighted and alert, have an objective and comprehensive viewpoint, and through realistic activities take the results of duty performance as a gauge to correctly appraise cadres, promptly detecting the young competent cadres while simultaneously knowing how to employ effectively old and experienced cadres. We must settle satisfactorily the relations between generations of cadres to conform with the present requirements of renovation and to prepare for the development of the country in the future.

Let me move on now to the fifth issue: The initial results of renovation and the main guidelines and tasks for the coming years. Dear comrades, over the past four years or more, implementing the sixth party congress resolution, all our party members and people have carried out comprehensive renovation, overcome gradually mistakes and shortcomings, and opened up new directions and working methods to extricate ourselves from the socioeconomic crisis and to advance gradually.

The renovation process is full of difficulties which call for research, creativity, and courageous experiments

which have become even more difficult when in the recent past, our country has been adversely affected in several respects by the complex developments in the world. Although we have achieved some successes in the renovation process, we have also committed some shortcomings and blunders. It is very necessary to correctly assess the true nature and trends of the situation and to derive correct conclusions therefrom which will be served as a basis for determining orientations for the coming years.

By discussing the draft documents of the party congress, nearly everybody unanimously acknowledged that the renovation process has scored very important initial achievements which demonstrate that the renovation line set forth by the sixth party congress is correct and that the steps taken in the renovation process are basically appropriate.

The party congress documents, especially the political report, have presented these achievements specifically. Here, we want to further analyze the significance of these achievements. We have achieved initial economic progress, first of all in agriculture and especially in terms of grain. We have restrained a step further the momentum of inflation, reduced some difficulties in the people's livelihood, achieved some progress in exports, and considerably improved the balance of exports and imports right at the moment when our foreign economic relations have undergone some unexpected changes: big cuts in foreign aid, source of loans for import surplus no longer available, and sharp reduction of imports from traditional markets.

It can be said that past economic achievements have helped save our national economy from a precarious situation. Of course, we should remember that those economic achievements are not only the fruit of several years of renovation but also the results of the implementation of correct policies and building projects many years before that. The important thing is that the economy has undergone significant changes both in terms of structure and management mechanism. A multisectoral commodity economy based on socialist orientations has begun to take shape and operate in accordance with the market-oriented mechanism and under state management. Important adjustments have been made in the areas of investment and production structures with more concentrated efforts being made to support the three economic programs. As a result, we can better meet the demands of the home market and begin to broaden our relations with the world market.

Initial progress in the economy, life, and social democratization, together with the achievements in the domains of national defense and security and foreign relations, have significantly contributed to further restoring the people's confidence in the prospects of socialism and the leadership of our party. This is a decisive factor in ensuring political stability in the face of the complex effects of the situation in the world and the country during the recent past.

The general picture of our country at present, on the socioeconomic level as well as on the political, ideological, and social levels, has changed for the better. This is a change that everyone can appreciate, including foreigners.

The achievements over the past four years and more have lessened to a certain degree the magnitude of the crisis. The renovation experiences have shed more light on the path to socialism in our country. Actually, since the Sixth Party Congress, we have effected changes in socioeconomic building and development concepts and in major domestic and foreign policies. As a result, the habits and thinking patterns of the entire society have changed, too. Many new workstyles have emerged. Realities have testified to the correctness of those changes. It can be said that those are the greatest achievements of fundamental and long-term significance of more than four years of renovation.

Of course, we should not overestimate our achievements and should not forget that our country still cannot extricate itself from socioeconomic crisis. We should not belittle factors that can cause political instability. The inflation rate still remains high. The causes of inflation have not yet been removed. Many areas of production are still at a standstill. The rate of unemployment or underemployment is still on the rise. The people still experience many difficulties in their daily lives. The quality of many cultural and social activities continues to deteriorate. The impact of corruption, injustice, and social negativism remains heavy. People still cannot enjoy a sense of public security and order. Law and social order are not yet strictly enforced.

We assure the inevitability of the renovation process, especially the economic renovation process. However, we must see the reverse side of this process. It is completely correct and necessary to shift a self-sufficient economy based on the system of bureaucratic centralism and state subsidization to a multisectoral commodity economy based on the market-oriented mechanism and under state management. This is an important move aimed at liberating and bringing into full play all latent productive forces in society. However, it could be a mistake to believe that the market-oriented economy is a wonder drug.

This is because while the market-oriented economy is helping to stimulate production, it has also created and developed many types of social vices. There have been trends of amassing wealth at any price, including efforts to commit deceitful and atrocious acts, violate the state law, trample on the feeling and dignity of men, and lead a lifestyle of debauchery that appreciates low taste, decadent culture, and superstition—a lifestyle that is developing.

It is noteworthy that a segment of our younger generation has lost faith in idealism and has led a pragmatic lifestyle. A large group of party cadres and members with high positions and authority—including those who had

made great contributions to the revolution—became degenerate persons. To limit and overcome these negative phenomena, to maintain a correct path for the renovation undertaking, and to develop the fine character of socialism, the party, state, the Vietnam Fatherland Front [VFF], and other mass organizations must strive to satisfactorily implement their leadership role over the management, organization, and training tasks. This is a difficult struggle that we must definitely, decisively, and persistently carry out in a methodical fassion. [applause]

In implementing the renovation during the past more than four years, we have found that the ideas criticizing our renovation as being carried out just for form's sake or in a superficial manner are not consistent with reality. In carrying out the renovation, we will experience blunders if we do not carefully plan our advanced steps. Those who rejected or underestimated achievements of the renovation and wanted to turn back to the former obsolete work method—though these ideas stemmed from their concern and legitimate indignation against negative phenomena arising from the process of renovation—are also totally wrong.

Dear comrades, during the next five years, our nation will face numerous acute ordeals. Our people urgently demand a quick recovery from the current socioeconomic crisis and an improvement in daily life while international aid to our country has been reduced dramatically and foreign debts have to be paid in larger sum. Moreover, international forces still impose an economic embargo against our country while reactionary forces have been overtly and covertly carrying out sabotage activities and exerting pressure from many directions against us. They have resorted to the peaceful evolution scheme using various dangerous tactics to undermine us. As a result, the task of defending the fatherland is still very heavy.

However, chances for development are great if we implement the renovation in the correct way and formulate appropriate policies and implement them effectively. We must strive to continue to liberate the production force, develop our economic potential, satisfactorily exploit all possibilities to expand foreign trade relations, participate more profoundly in the international division of labor; gain more capital, transfer more technology, and learn from the experiences of foreign countries to build our country.

Our objectives for the next five years are to overcome the current acute difficulties, strengthen political security, lead the country toward overcoming the socioeconomic crisis, and implement parts of the strategy of socioeconomic stabilization and development until the year 2000. The orientations for fulfilling these objectives are to strive to strengthen unity and integrate the strengths of all people to carry out the two strategic tasks of building socialism and defending the fatherland while developing the revolutionary gains. We must continue to supplement and perfect the renovation and implement it in a uniform and effective manner, develop the good points and achievements, overcome shortcomings and difficulties, and strive to limit new deviations which may arise.

On the basis of key tasks set forth in the political report, and through ideas contributed by cadres, party members, and the people, the CPV Central Committee would like to propose a number of tasks that we must strive to carry out as follows:

First, the most important, fundamental, and urgent task is to strive to increase production. On the basis of building the increasingly firm, uniform multicomponent commodity-based economy in accordance with the socialist path with the market mechanism under state management, we must strive to mobilize all social resources and materials, exploit the scientific and industrial dynamism; strengthen education, cultural, and ideological work; and accelerate the pace of economic development to increase productivity, improve quality, and attain high economic results. We must strive to develop agro-forestry and fishery in close association with the processing industry in order to ensure sufficient food and grain—the most important task to stabilize the socioeconomic situation.

In developing various economic sectors, including production and service, we must attentively mobilize the latent potentials and bring into play the relatively advantageous positions to most satisfactorily meet the requirements of production and life in the country and to vigorously orient ourselves toward exports. The development of heavy industry and infrastructural installations must be targeted and organized to suit the strength of the economy. It must first of all be oriented toward satisfactorily supporting the three economic programs and must, at the same time, create bases for future steps of development.

At present, the urgent problem concerning the artisan industry and handicraft production of all economic sectors is to seek all sources to meet the demands for raw materials, supplies, equipment, spare parts, and capital for production. We must expand the markets for domestic consumption and exports, closely manage imports, oppose smuggling to protect domestic production, practice thrift, increase the quality of products and economic effectiveness in production and business, deal with those installations suffering prolonged business losses, and concentrate capital and materials on those targeted installations doing effective business. At the same time, while vigorously accelerating production, we should rearrange all activities in the domain of circulation; renovate and reorganize state-run trade and increase its efficiency; and guide non-state trade and service sectors in operating in the right direction.

The second problem is that we should continue to perfect the new mechanism of economic management, first of all, in the fields of finance and banking, aiming to

remove difficulties in production installations; continually restrain inflation; prevent negative phenomena in production, business, and service; and create favorable conditions for expanding international cooperation.

We must urgently establish a national financial policy and carry out basic reform of the state finance system along the line of promoting production and business by creating sources of investments and accumulating capital in economic units. While ensuring the appropriate concentration of capital for the state, we must create conditions and exert pressure to force economic units to seek all measures to increase their business results, rationally distribute national income, gradually increase the rates of capital accumulation, practice thrift, and ensure social justice.

We should continue to renovate the operations of the banking network, correctly perform the functions of state and business banks, clearly distinguish finance from credit, and apply the form of shareholding banks. Banks should always perform well the function of a center of currencies, credits, and payment for all economic sectors, regulate cash throughout the country, absorb all idle capital in the society, and encourage the people to be thrifty in consumption in order to accumulate capital for the development of production. We must reestablish order in the use of capital, manage cash in state agencies and economic organizations, settle the misappropriation of one another's funds by production and business units and the situation of debts carried forward, step by step stabilize the value of the Vietnamese dong, manage foreign exchange through banks, use foreign exchange in a planned manner, establish a legal market for foreign exchange, and authorize foreign banks to operate in the country in accordance with Vietnamese law.

To help fight inflation, one of the main measures is to practice stern thrift in production, construction, and consumption. The state and economic, administrative, and professional units should establish specific mechanisms and regulations in order to effectively implement this guideline.

Now is the third issue: Party members and the masses at grass-roots level as well as the party congresses at all levels have proved to be much concerned with the problems concerning social policies. This concern is legitimate. The party documents have presented the fundamental contents of social policies in which there is a prominent major viewpoint that considers objectives for the main impetus of development for the people and by the people, first of all the laboring people. This is also a viewpoint on the unity between the objectives of economic and social policies which maintain that everything is for the people.

The party documents also point out the specific guidelines and tasks of social policies. I would like to present only some of the points. The problems of social policies are really diversified and complex. Each country has different social problems to be resolved at various levels of development.

As far as the socialist construction in our country is concerned, from the very outset, we face a series of pressing social problems. The first group includes problems arising from historical developments and war consequences. These include the need to care for and show our gratitude to people who have rendered meritorious service to the nation and revolution as well as to assist war victims, orphans, and people who suffer from social diseases and social vices. The second group include problems arising from a backward and poorly developing economy. These include unemployment, low standards of living, high population growth rate, superstitions, and so forth. The third group includes newly detected problems. These include social issues related to development of the multisectoral commodity economy, shifting to the market-oriented mechanism, settlement of land disputes in the countryside, policies on wages and social insurance, population redistribution program, building of new economic zones, administrative personnel cutbacks, troop reduction, and so forth.

How should we resolve those problems? In our opinion, because of low labor productivity and constant imbalance between state revenues and expenditures, it is impossible to resolve all those pressing problems overnight. We need time to resolve those problems step by step along with our economic development efforts.

It is necessary to mobilize all capabilities of the state, people, and the central and local governments to resolve the problems concerning social policies. It is necessary to raise people's social insurance funds in all economic sectors and set up charitable and humanitarian organizations to develop our national traditions of human compassion and mutual assistance and support the state's efforts to resolve social problems.

In the next five years, we must concentrate efforts on resolving the following most pressing problems: Reduction of the population growth rate; job opportunities for the laboring people, first of all those in the urban areas, discharged soldiers, and school graduates by means of state-provided mechanisms, policies, environments, and training facilities and personal efforts of the laboring people to look for employment by themselves; adjustment of the wage system in such a way as to secure sufficient conditions for extended reproduction; monetization of wages aimed at overcoming the practice of across-the-board remuneration and at linking wage adjustment with consolidation of personnel organization and personnel cutback; care for those who have rendered meritorious services to the nation; further improvement of the quality of the working, living, studying, public health care, travel, and recreational facilities to benefit the laboring people. Special attention must be given to mountain and border areas and localities inhabited by ethnic minority compatriots.

The fourth issue involves the need to firmly defend the fatherland's independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, political stability, and social security and order.

It is necessary to consolidate the armed forces and legislative organs to have sufficient strength to maintain social order. It is important to take the initiative in preventing and smashing all acts of sabotage in all domains from the inside and outside. It is necessary to bear in mind the need to closely link efforts to resolve pressing economic problems with attempts to wage a struggle against corruption and smuggling, which has now become a political task that our entire party and people must carry out if we are to purify the state mechanism and ameliorate social relations. Stern action must be taken against cases of corruption and violations of the law. Legal proceedings must start as soon as possible. All acts detrimental to the interests of the people and society must be considered as criminal deeds and must be dealt with to the full extent of the law without exception.

The fifth issue is that the party and state must continue to renovate cadres and the cadre task, promptly replace incompetent cadres, deal with cadres who hold deviant viewpoints, violate the party rules and state laws, and renovate and complete the mechanism of selecting and retraining cadres, especially high-ranking management cadres in order to meet the requirements of the renovation process and the steady takeover by generations of cadres.

We must urgently perfect the network of state machinery, raise the efficiency of management, establish order and discipline in the economy and society, and make the state truly the organ of power of the people, by the people, and for the people. We should carry on the amendment of the Constitution, lead the organization and implementation of the amended constitution, reform the administrative system by building a firm and strong executive system from the center down to the grassroots levels, and modify the mechanisms and policies which create loopholes, delays and corruption. We must intensify the control and inspection tasks, and promptly resolve problems as soon as they emerge. Together with state agencies, the party machinery and mass organizations should be reorganized for compactness and to enhance quality and efficiency.

The sixth issue: The overriding external relations task for the period ahead is to firmly maintain peace, to broaden relations of friendship and cooperation, to create favorable international conditions for the building of socialism and the defense of our fatherland, and to actively contribute to the common struggle of the world people for peace, national independence, democracy, and social progress. On the basis of the principle of peaceful coexistence, we advocate cooperation on an equal footing for mutual benefit with all other countries, regardless of their different political and social systems.

We will consistently strengthen solidarity and cooperation with the Soviet Union in order to meet the interests of each country.

We will continue to consolidate and develop the special relationship of solidarity and friendship between our party and people and the fraternal parties and peoples of Laos and Cambodia. We will renovate the procedures of cooperation and pay attention to efficiency in accordance with the principle of equality and respect for each other's independence, sovereignty, and political interests.

We will strive for, and contribute to, achieving an early comprehensive political solution to the Cambodian issue on the basis of respect for the sovereignty of Cambodia and the UN Charter.

We will consolidate our relations of friendship, solidarity, and cooperation for mutual benefit and on an equal footing with Cuba and other socialist countries.

We will promote the process of normalizing relations with China, broaden Vietnamese-Chinese cooperation step by step, and resolve the remaining problems between the two countries through negotiations.

The CPV will strengthen its relations with other communist and workers parties and actively contribute to, and cooperate with, various fraternal parties who share our struggle for the noble goals of our time.

The CPV will unite with all forces struggling for peace, national independence, democracy, and social progress. It is prepared to establish and broaden relations with various social democratic parties and with democratic and progressive movements throughout the world. It will develop its relations of solidarity and trust and enhance its multifaceted cooperation with India. It will continue to broaden cooperation with other developing countries and actively contribute to consolidating and strengthening the Nonaligned Movement.

The CPV will broaden friendly relations with the countries in Southeast Asia and Asia-Pacific; struggle for a Southeast Asia of peace, friendship, and cooperation; expand cooperation on an equal footing for mutual benefit of North and West European countries, Japan, and other developing countries; and promote the process of normalization of relations with the United States.

The CPV will contribute to making the United Nations serve, in an even more effective manner, the objectives of mankind, namely peace, friendship, cooperation, and development. It will cooperate with various international financial and monetary organizations as well as with specialized UN and nongovernmental organizations.

With our wide open foreign policy, we declare that Vietnam wants to be friends with all countries in the world community struggling for peace, independence, and development. [prolonged applause]

Dear delegates to the congress, the next five years will be a period full of ordeals for our people, but we have many great prospects.

With the tradition of patriotism, the existing revolutionary nature, and with our intellegence and creativity, our people will not surrender to poverty and backwardness.

Our party is charged with the great historic mission of leading our people in overcoming the difficulties we may face, fully utilizing all opportunities to triumphantly implement the renovation undertaking, overcome the socioeconomic crisis, improve the people's daily life, firmly defend the fatherland, and advance toward sucessfully building socialism in our country in accordance with the path set forth by the party platform.

This is the earnest aspiration of the entire party and people and of our esteemed, beloved Uncle Ho. [applause]

Fulfilling this historic mission, our party and people will contribute greatly to the common cause of the world people for peace, national independence, democracy, and socialism.

Our cause will certainly triumph! [prolonged applause]

Do Muoi Chairs Afternoon Session

BK2406131791 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 24 Jun 91

[Text] Dear friends: This afternoon the congress continued its work at the Ba Dinh Conference Hall under the direction of Comrade Do Muoi.

The congress heard the welcoming speeches by Comrade Shenin, Politburo member and secretary of the CPSU [Communist Party of the Soviet Union] Central Committee; Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan, chairman of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Lao People's Democratic Republic; Comrade Heng Samrin, general secretary of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee and chairman of the Cambodian Council of State; and Comrade Yolanda Ferrer, alternate member of the Cuban Communist Party Politburo.

In their greetings, the comrade heads of the delegations of the fraternal parties expressed joy and high value at the achievements recorded in the process of renovation in Vietnam under the leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV]. They also asserted solidarity, cooperation, and continued mutual assistance in the struggle for national construction and defense, as well as in the process of socioeconomic development of each country.

Amid an atmosphere of elation and emotion, Comrades Shenin, Kaysone Phomvihan, Heng Samrin, and Yolanda Ferrer—respective heads of the CPSU, Lao, Cambodian, and Cuban delegations—presented souvenirs to the congress.

Also in its working session this afternoon, the congress heard the statements delivered by Comrade Pham The Duyet, head of the Hanoi delegation; Comrade Vo Tran Chi, head of the Ho Chi Minh City delegation; Comrade Nguyen Van Chi, head of the Quang Nam-Danang provincial delegation; Comrade Doan Khue, head of the army delegation; and Nong Duc Manh, head of the Lang Son provincial delegation.

The statements delivered by these comrades affirm that the policy of renovation laid down by our party since its sixth congress is correct and has brought about achievements in many socioeconomic aspects. These statements also point out the need to continue the process of renovation and more satisfactorily develop and consolidate the contingent of party cadres at the grass roots, improve the relations between the party and administration, and make the party ranks pure in order to further fortify faith among the masses.

Dear friends, in the newscast tonight, we will carry excerpts from a statement by Comrade Pham The Duyet, head of the Hanoi delegation, and the welcoming speech by Comrade Shenin, head of the CPSU delegation.

International Delegations Greet Congress

BK2406160091 Hanoi VNA in English 1504 GMT 24 Jun 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA June 24—At this afternoon session, the 7th Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam heard greetings from fraternal party delegations.

In his speech, Oleg Semenovich Shenin, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, said:

"In the Soviet Union, we know the important achievements of the renovation policy charted by the Communist Party of Vietnam and carried out under the party leadership. We rejoice to see that in a short period of time Vietnam has succeeded in solving the food problem. We have studied with keen interest your experience in carrying out far-reaching reforms while maintaining political stability and building a multi-sectoral economy within the framework of the socialist option. Realities have shown that the Communist Party of Vietnam has found its own way to settle complicated problems arising from social life in conformity with Vietnam's specific conditions.

"In the Soviet Union, we correctly value the important role played by Vietnam in the Asian-Pacific region in general and in Southeast Asia in particular. In that context, we welcome and support the unswerving efforts of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to normalize its relations with the People's Republic of China and build relations of good neighbourhood and cooperation with

the ASEAN countries. Vietnam has made constructive efforts to bring about a political solution to the Cambodian question on the basis of the respect for the Cambodian people's fundamental interests," he said.

In his greeting speech, Kaysone Phomvihan, chairman of the Central Committee of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party, said: "The 7th Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam is an event of paramount importance in the socio-political life of Vietnam, marking a new historic development in the cause of renovation, national construction and defence of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

"We are fully aware of the importance of our friendly relationship and all-round cooperation with the Soviet Union, the People's Republic of China and other fraternal and friendly countries all over the world, and will do our best to consolidate and strengthen those relations. By the way, we express our earnest desire to see the early normalization of the age-old traditional friendly relations between the two socialist neighbours, Vietnam and China, in the great interest of peace, security and cooperation in the region."

In his speech of greetings, Heng Samrin, general secretary of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea (PRPK), said: "The party and State of Cambodia warmly welcome the sustained efforts of the party and state of Vietnam to improve its relations with China, the United States, with the countries in the region and elsewhere in the world. We consider this to be positive contribution to peace, stability and cooperation in the region and the rest of the world. After successfully discharging their noble internationalist duty in Cambodia, the Vietnamese army volunteers have been repatriated. Thus, the Cambodian problem is no longer an obstacle to the normalization of relations between Vietnam and other countries. The Socialist Republic of Vietnam has created and is creating more favorable international conditions for its national construction."

Heng Samrin continued: "We hold that the normalization of relations between the parties, states and peoples of Vietnam and China as well as between Cambodia and China, on the basis of a time-honoured traditional friendship, will be an important contribution to a political settlement of the Cambodian question."

"We would like to express our deep gratitude to the concern of the international community for the peaceful settlement of the Cambodian issue. For its part, the Cambodian state will do all it can and is ready to resume the discussion of the remaining points in the November 26, 1990 draft agreement put forth by the big five [permanent five members of UN Security Council], this with the aim of arriving at a political settlement that would guarantee against the return of the genocidal regime in Cambodia, assure social stability for an eventual general election and independence, sovereignty and the right to self-determination of the Cambodian people in line with the United Nations Charter."

"We call on the Khmer opposition side, the concerned countries and the whole international community to support the Sihanouk-Hun Sen agreement in Jakarta, especially questions relating to the composition of the Supreme National Council and the continued voluntary ceasefire until an overall political settlement is reached and the moratorium on foreign military aid which are important measures serving as basis for the continued discussion to solve the pending issues on the way toward an overall settlement."

Mrs. Yolanda Ferrer, alternate Politburo member of the Communist Party of Cuba and head of the CPC delegation, read the message of greetings from the Central Committee of the CPC. The message said:

"It is easy for Vietnam and Cuba both being developing countries to understand that pax americana which they want to impose on us is nothing else but a disaster. Because, historical evolution has proved that capitalism, is its capacity as a system, has failed completely to offer an overall solution to all problems we are facing. Hence, a vital challenge is before us: Whether to struggle for the final victory of sovereignty, national independence and socialism or to be bring back to the period of dependence in all spheres."

The message further said:

"In this great struggle, we are proud to stand beside the heroic fraternal Vietnamese, the successors to the cause of our beloved Ho Chi Minh. We are confident that the fraternal Vietnamese people will succeed in the new situation as you have succeeded in the past fight against the expeditionary forces of Japan, France and the United States to become a symbol and a source of encouragement to all those who are fighting for sovereignty, national independence and progress of the whole mankind."